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Tuesday April 2 1996

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Montana: another Waco?
America's new civil war
 G2 with European weather



Looking for the feminist middle ground
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Education
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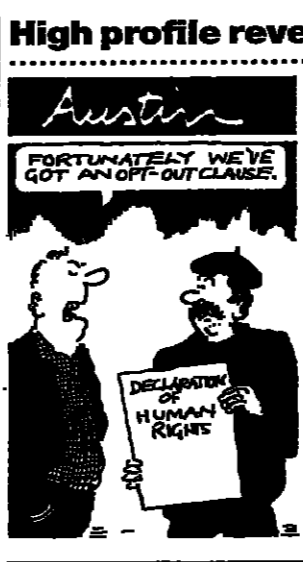
The wife of the Birmingham prisoner Charles Stanton, who yesterday lost an 18-year legal fight with neighbours over a 25ft-high garden hedge, speaks to reporters through her letterbox. Beating about the bush, page 3. PHOTOGRAPH: BEN HEAD

Europe-wide offensive after embarrassing rulings

Ministers seek curb on rights

Michael White
 Political Editor

THE Government has launched a diplomatic offensive across Europe aimed at garnering support to curb the powers of the European Court of Human Rights after a series of embarrassing rulings against Britain.



High profile reverses that provoked action

THE UK has been found guilty of 38 human rights violations out of 79 cases — a worse record than any other nation. Another 14 cases are pending.

- March 1996: Journalist wins fight to protect secrecy of sources.
- February 1996: Court rules Michael Howard has no right to specify term to be served by child killers.
- September 1995: Court rules against government over SAS Gibraltar shootings of three IRA terrorists.
- January 1995: Court rules

The 38 members of the Council of Europe, which can alter the court's authority, have been sent a Foreign Office document outlining Britain's plans to restrict the influence of the court.

The effect of Britain's blueprint — a copy of which has been seen by the Guardian — would be to give governments the informal right to vet judges nominated from other countries.

Countries would also get notice of impending controversy and the right to insist that greater account be taken of differing democratic traditions — a judicial form of the European Union doctrine of subsidiarity.

As the Prime Minister walks the tightrope between his pro-European and sceptical instincts, the Foreign Office has started talks with embassies whose governments send judges to the Strasbourg-based commission and court.

The key passage in the FO memorandum says: "Account should be taken of the fact that democratic institutions and tribunals in member states are best placed to determine moral and social issues in accordance with regional and national perceptions."

The declared aim is "to promote fairness and to ensure that the Strasbourg institutions take all factors into

account". No direct reference is made to Whitehall's "concern about some recent judgments" — cases which have infuriated Tories.

But widespread dissatisfaction on the right of the Conservative Party stems notably from the court's ruling that Britain was at fault over the SAS's killing of three IRA bombers in Gibraltar in 1987.

Last week the court upheld journalist Bill Goodwin's appeal against British courts' refusal to acknowledge that he should be entitled to protect professional sources from disclosure. The decision means the Government will have to change the 1981 Contempt of Court Act.

John Major has hinted that Britain might leave the court, which was established shortly after the second world war to promote human rights in a ravaged and divided continent.

The paper sent to member states suggests that Malcolm

Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, would prefer return to resignation from the court, which is due to see its lower body — the commission, merged into a single court shortly.

MPs in all parties believe the problem of diverse cultures and judicial traditions would best be solved by incorporating the European Convention on Human Rights into British law so that many cases would be resolved at national level.

No substantive response has yet been received to the Rifkind initiative which stresses that Britain is "a strong supporter" of the convention. It urges improvements, starting with "a new rule under which [the court] would make known its main areas of concern in writing early enough for these to be addressed at hearings".

Whitehall also proposes that governments make arrangements "for exchanging

informally the names of any nominees as judges for the court before they are tabled" so that their views can be taken into account.

The Government argues that the court's doctrine of the margin of appreciation already gives weight to national diversity, particularly on those moral and social issues where the view of what is right may legitimately vary".

It wants that doctrine applied more consistently with "full regard paid to decisions by democratic legislatures and to differing legal traditions".

Long-standing laws and practices should be respected — even when they are "manifestly contrary" to the convention.

The court is not linked to the EU and its judicial machinery, the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg.

Hugo Young, page 9

Police win stop and search power

Patrick Wintour, Chief Political Correspondent

SWEEPING police powers to stop and search in the streets are to be extended from Northern Ireland to mainland Britain in a surprise five-part package to be rushed through the Commons today with Labour front bench support.

As many as 25 Labour backbenchers are likely to defy Tony Blair, arguing that the emergency measures, to be introduced by the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, are a draconian return to the discredited SIS laws.

The Liberal Democrat dep-

uty leader, Alan Beith, said his party would vote against the guillotine, claiming that railroading such a complex bill through Parliament in one day was bound to lead to "defective and ineffective law".

Mr Howard first told Opposition parties last Thursday of his plans to rush the amendments to the Prevention of Terrorism Act on to the statute book.

Jack Straw, the shadow home secretary, has been given intelligence and police briefings to convince him that the new powers must be on the statute book by Easter.

Intelligence sources believe the IRA are transporting in-

centary devices as small as cassettes and may be considering a return to violence after a by-election in Southern Ireland today in which Sinn Fein are likely to do badly.

Mr Straw has subsequently held intense consultations in an attempt to persuade the rebels, including the former shadow Northern Ireland secretary Kevin McNamara, from voting against the measures. But he appears to have failed.

In the Commons, Mr Howard said the proposals had been sought by the police after the end of the IRA ceasefire. He added: "We face a clear threat from terrorism. It is the Government's duty to

take every step possible to meet that threat."

The package will give police powers to stop and search any pedestrian, including shoes and outer clothes.

Any policeman will be able to search hat, clothes, gloves, or outer coat, whether or not he has grounds for believing the pedestrian is carrying a terrorist-related device. Refusal to co-operate could lead to a six-month jail sentence.

At present, the police have powers to search pedestrians' baggage, or search an individual in a vehicle.

The police will also have

Hogg begs EU for beef cull cash

Julie Wolf in Luxembourg, Patrick Wintour and Owen Bowcott

THE Agriculture Minister, Douglas Hogg, yesterday pleaded with the European Union to foot 80 per cent of the bill for slaughtering up to 4.7 million British cows in the next six years with the aim of eradicating BSE.

At an emergency meeting of EU farm ministers in Luxembourg, Mr Hogg outlined plans to slaughter all cattle aged over 30 months when they come to the end of their working lives, and to remove their meat from the food chain.

The accelerated culling would involve the deaths of 15,000 cows a week and is expected to cost as much as \$5 billion. Further selective culling is also contemplated.

If the EU financed 80 per cent of compensation to farmers, Mr Hogg said, the government would pay the rest. It would be a "significant measure which would go a long way to removing the problem", he said.

But despite Mr Hogg's call for the ban on exports of British beef and beef products to be lifted "as quickly as possible", EU countries yesterday

indicated that more radical action was required.

European farm ministers ruled out an early end to the export ban. "It should be lifted when we have a total guarantee that there is no risk. It is difficult to imagine that this will be in the next 24 hours," the French agriculture minister, Philippe Vasseur, said.

Several farm ministers viewed Britain's proposal for 80-per-cent EU funding as merely an opening bid. "It's a basis for discussion," the French minister said.

The German minister, Jochem Bornhart, said the EU's participation in Britain's programme should be similar to the 50-per-cent to 70-per-cent given to Germany and other member states to combat recent epidemics of swine fever.

At Westminster, John Major said the Government was considering a novel way of identifying cattle with BSE, or those most susceptible.

Increasingly optimistic that confidence is creeping back into the domestic market, ministers are believed to be looking at ways to identify cattle that have been fed on grass, not recycled sheep and cattle offal.

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Britain's secret war in Bosnia

Ed Vulliamy reveals how squaddies took on the militias at a cost never admitted

BRTISH soldiers in Bosnia fought a covert struggle against all three sides in the conflict between 1993 and last year. Killing Croat, Muslim and Serb troops in far greater numbers than has been admitted by Whitehall officials.

The firefights were waged to stave off intense provocation, sniper and missile attacks on British patrols and convoys. The incidents were officially played down, described as "shooting incidents" or "exchanges of fire".

During a tour by one battalion, the Prince of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment, the fighting became so intense that its camp or "Brihat" became known as "Snootbat".

The Ministry of Defence is unable to give figures for opposing forces killed by British troops serving under the United Nations flag. Unlike in Ulster, soldiers are neither obliged nor able to verify a kill. One officer said: "If you fire at a sniper from 300 metres, you can hardly get out of your armoured vehicle

and wander into a minefield. You have to presume someone is dead because of the accuracy of the gun".

UN and MoD sources have estimated that 28 local militiamen were killed in central Bosnia between October 1992 and February 1994, when the British found themselves in the middle of a war between Croats and Muslims. But other estimates suggest the Yorkshire alone killed between 40 to 50 Croats, and up to 30 Muslims.

The Guardian today publishes the first detailed account of how British forces in Bosnia were forced into a combat role. Asked about the official number of "enemy"

casualties — 38 — one British trooper from the Coldstream Guards, which succeeded the Yorkshires, said: "You can add a nought to that."

By taking on the militias, British units were the only UN forces in Bosnia to enforce the UN Security Council's aid delivery mandate. The Yorkshires set an unbeaten record of delivering to its destination every UN convoy that entered their terrain.

Other British operations were more secretive and more deadly. Undercover SAS patrols were moving unofficially behind Serbian lines, turn to page 3, column 1

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Labour

Sketch

The boy Major says 'e done well



Simon Hoggart

SATURDAY I took my young son to a football match. It's rite of passage for you to take the boy whether they want to or not.

At just three rows up from the pitch, which isn't too high a vantage at Wimbledon, the match itself was unexciting and much criticised in the papers. But what struck me...

Well, up to a point. The only thing the Commons chamber had in common with Selhurst Park (Wimbledon's temporary home) was the absence of a crowd.

The Prime Minister was reporting on the Turin meeting of European leaders, an event which could affect our lives for decades, and there was a total of 24 Labour backbenchers present.

It isn't a statement. It isn't a report to our representatives about what is being agreed on our behalf.

It's fantasy football. The Prime Minister is a schoolboy kicking a stone along the street. He shoots! He scores!

The crowd rises to its feet! (Or in Major's case, responds, without exception, with universal agreement...)

Finally, Tony Banks asked us to spare a thought for victims of the M11 crash. Mr Major made his statement. It was downbeat, bored, lacklustre.

Foreign ministers will meet every month. Their personal representatives will meet every week.

An eternity of tedium stretched ahead. He made working in the EU sound like a season ticket for Arsenal.

Then he gave his account of the summit. Curiously, to go by this and similar news items, he seems to be the only person present.

The Government's approach, "I've set out" areas where the UK would be making proposals.

When there was a policy which hadn't been outlined, set out or underlined, "I made clear my particular concern" (on the European Court).

As for the best crisis, "I told my colleagues" "I suggested" and finally "I emphasised".

How did Europe react to this outbreak of the upright pronoun? With complete agreement, we learned.

The response of my European colleagues was, without exception, one of support. There was universal agreement...

Other European leaders go unmentioned. They exist only as an audience, occasionally permitted to murmur their agreement with whatever Mr Major happens to make clear.

The questions which follow allow him to expand on this. The recent history of Europe — for instance on social costs — has consisted largely of our colleagues realising the error of their ways and the wisdom of his.

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Domestic customers would not gain □ Industry says Government using water as 'political weapon'

Plan to end water monopoly

Firms may be forced to compete

Rebecca Smithers

THE Government yesterday announced what it claimed was the first step in the gradual introduction of competition into the water industry.

Labour attacked the move — which will initially apply only to large industrial customers — as inadequate.

Announcing publication of a consultation paper yesterday, the environment secretary, John Gummer, said: "Competition is the best guarantee for consumers that they receive value for money, better services and lower prices."

Frank Dobson, the shadow environment secretary, said: "This proposal falls far short of what the Prime Minister promised the Tory conference in Harrogate on Saturday. Then, he said: 'We're going to introduce competition into the water industry.'"

Under the plan, large companies will be able to choose their water supplier, but the scheme is fraught with problems because of the huge cost of carrying water in the absence of a national "grid".

It also proposes arrangements under which one water company would deliver water on behalf of another, and opens the way for new suppliers to sell water to big users.

Ofwat, the industry regulator, said 15 companies had already applied to get their water from new sources.

Pamela Taylor, chief executive of the Water Companies Association, which represents the 18 water supply companies which have always been in the private sector, said: "The Government's proposals will have limited impact on those domestic customers who have been affected by privatisation of the water industry."

Not necessarily. Only 5 per cent of water supplies are metered, so companies do not know how much or where water is being lost.

Will it improve water quality? Unlikely. Quality is the responsibility of the company delivering it to the tap.

Will the taste be affected by common carriage? Yes, but only in a small number of areas near the points where water from different areas mixes.

Will water leakage be reduced? Not necessarily. Only 5 per cent of water supplies are metered, so companies do not know how much or where water is being lost.



Testing the water... Ministers say their plans would allow big customers to choose suppliers as the first step to competition in the water industry

How the changes will filter through

WILL water bills come down? Not for residential customers. Industrial users of more than 250 megalitres (about 55 million gallons) a year may be able to buy water cheaper, but a lot will depend on where they are.

Will this create a national water grid similar to the national electricity grid and British Gas's pipeline network? No. Water, unlike gas and electricity, is extremely costly to pump around the country.

Will the proposals end water shortages? Only if companies are driven to become more efficient through fear of losing big customers.

Will it lead to increased competition? Only for a few big companies in the short term. However, competition between the local privatised water and

sewage group and water-only companies in its area should increase. In the longer term, more domestic customers will be able to get supplies from neighbouring water companies as industrial concerns pay for the construction of cross-border pipelines.

Will it improve water quality? Unlikely. Quality is the responsibility of the company delivering it to the tap. It would be difficult to pin down responsibility for below-standard drinking water if various companies were contributing to a common pipe.

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Review

Learning to live on an actor's wits

Stuart Jeffries

Acting with Richard Wilson BBC2

THE PROSPECT of watching actors improvising is not a happy one. After all, an actor without a script is like a police officer without a lead — full of sound and fury that signifies nothing, but upsets many. Or, at least, that is the received wisdom: these plans thrown on their own wits are people thrown on the most threadbare of resources.

But even though Acting with Richard Wilson often felt like six actors in search of a character, the programme proved entertaining, and surprisingly informative.

Wilson isn't exactly Stanislavsky, but holds similar views about how an actor should suggest a character without declamatory grandstanding. "The best thing that you can give me today is the feeling that those who are watching are eavesdropping," he declared. "That's what good acting is to me: that we are not sitting back to be entertained or moved or anything. We have to listen, and the more open you are the more we will listen."

Eavesdropping? The worst improvisations felt as though we were slowing down to sur-

vey a car crash. In one, an actor was required to invent a scene in a room with only a newspaper, a phone and a bottle of mineral water for props. She paced, she drank some water, she flicked through the paper, she drank, she paced, she made a phone call, she paced, she flicked, she drank. It reminded me of something I saw in an upstairs room off Camden High Street.

There was just me, him, the Highland Spring and a big cloud of mutual embarrassment, and it should have been called the Loneliness of the Long-Distance Pub Theatre Co.

But, this improvisation was instructive because we had eavesdropped on someone who had failed to create an imaginative world for us to observe, or, worse, created a world which was glimpsed occasionally through the apparent gaps in the actor's concentration.

When two men were asked to suggest a violent confrontation with a chair and a newspaper. The two actors quickly slipped into a collection of macho tics — the truncated body language of the cop show character actor, Wilson was impressed by the stroking of the rolled newspaper that was supposed to serve as a truncheon, but have we not seen this testosterone-fuelled gesture too often for it to carry conviction?

But there was no disgrace for the actors in any of this. Far from a backslapping darling feat, this programme showed actors learning from their mistakes. Learning — thankfully the only L-word in evidence here.

Portable new light machine may help cure skin cancer

Chris Millill Medical Correspondent

A NEW light machine the size of a household toaster could revolutionise the treatment of some forms of skin cancer — at a tenth of the price of laser therapy.

The device emits an intense beam of light which with light sensitive cream can destroy

Captain Tyrant of Star Trek

Edward Pilkington

HE MADE women swoon with desire, staged the first interracial kiss on television, converted thousands of anoraked viewers on both sides of the Atlantic into besotted Trekkies and still had time to stuff the Klingons.

But behind the suavely authoritative character of Captain Kirk of the Starship Enterprise lay an actor with a darker reputation. His skin-tight trousers and hint of pompadour may have oozed sexuality, but in real life William Shatner was regarded by fellow Star Trek actors as a petty tyrant.

Thirty years after the first episode of the intergalactic series was broadcast, it has been revealed that Shatner was held in contempt by the theatrical crew. Behind his back, they dubbed him a little Napoleon or "Captain Quirk".

The actor, now 66, said he was shocked to discover the impression he left on colleagues when he interviewed them for a book he wrote last year, Star Trek



William Shatner: 'I thought it was all going rather well'

Memories. "I thought it was all going rather well. Perhaps I'm biased — I have tunnel vision when I'm trying to make a show as good as possible," he said.

Nichelle Nichols who played Lieutenant Uhura — the communications officer with the peculiar ear-piece with whom Captain Kirk had that historic kiss — turned on Shatner and said: "Now I want to tell you why I despise you." Good old Scotty — or

rather, James Doohan, the actor who played the chief engineer — went further, disclosing that if he'd had his way he would have beamed Shatner up into outer space and left him there. He called him a "big fathead".

The portrayal of the man behind the Kirk screen legend, admitted by Shatner himself in an interview with Radio Times this week, has not wholly surprised the devoted army of Trekkies. Rumours have circulated for years of tension aboard the Enterprise in customers' pipes. Competition between the local privatised water and

sewage group and water-only companies in its area should increase. In the longer term, more domestic customers will be able to get supplies from neighbouring water companies as industrial concerns pay for the construction of cross-border pipelines.

Will it improve water quality? Unlikely. Quality is the responsibility of the company delivering it to the tap. It would be difficult to pin down responsibility for below-standard drinking water if various companies were contributing to a common pipe.

Police to get new stop and search powers

continued from page 1

This will enable them to make widescale searches of lock-up garages in search of bomb-making equipment and bomb-carrying vehicles.

At ports, police on the mainland and in Northern Ireland will be given the right to search unaccompanied freight, a power at present confined to Customs officers.

Finally, Mr Howard proposes that police should no longer need to rely on the common law, but instead be given statutory powers to set up cordons around areas, as well as to impose total parking restrictions.

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صحنه من الامل

Giant conifers given judicial pruning as garden feud over privacy ends after 18 years

Maggie O'Kane on a border skirmish



Michael Jones in his garden yesterday after a tree surgeon had taken off the tops of the disputed hedge

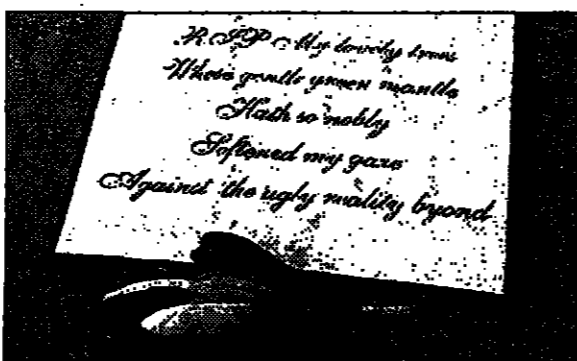
PHOTOGRAPH: ROLAND LEON

£100,000 beating about a bush

AT 11.04 yesterday morning a 34cc orange chainsaw began shearing the heads off seven giant garden conifers. It was the climax of an 18-year battle between two Birmingham pensioners — one obsessed with getting sunlight on to his prize-winning garden, the other with privacy.

It began with sharp words over the fence in Tillyard Croft and escalated into a £100,000 courtroom drama amid accusations of "peeping Toms" and hose-pipe attacks. The court finally ruled for a man's right to sunlight. The vanquished 88-year-old, Charles Bernard Stanton, a retired engineer, marked the implementation of a court order to cut 12 feet off the top of his 25-foot trees with a cardboard coffin outside his front door. Mr Stanton's epitaph to his trees read: "RIP My lovely trees, whose gentle green fronds have so nobly softened my gaze against the ugly reality beyond."

Beyond, Maureen Jones, aged 67, wife of the victor-



Charles Stanton (right) and the tribute to his trees placed on a mock coffin outside his house



ous Michael, also 67, served cheese and onion rolls and raspberry gateaux to the 30 journalists and six TV cameras who came to witness the final shearing. "It's all a terrible waste of money but it was Mr Stanton who went into the courts in the first place. We didn't want this to be dragged into the courts. Mr Jones and I will not be bullied," said Mrs Jones. Throughout the 1980s, Michael Jones, a retired teacher, watched with growing anxiety as Mr

Stanton's giant conifers overhadowed his £100,000 home and garden. Mr Jones, who held both first and third prize in the annual Bournville Village Trust garden competition, began stealing into his garden at dawn, in a blue towelling dressing gown, for secret pruning sessions. The police were called by Mr Stanton to deal with the "vandal" in the garden. But Mrs Jones says her young police officers tea in her kitchen and explained how she was forced to

gather her strawberries and soft fruits under cover of an umbrella because Mr Stanton tried to hose her down through the hedge. The Stanton's insisted they had planted the trees to protect their privacy from the Joneses who were watching them with binoculars from the first floor sewing room. Mrs Jones says her only sin was watching a rare albino starling in the trees. Finally, Mr Jones lost his patience and sheared off the top 10 feet of the Stan-

Cupressocyparis Lylandii

□ The Leyland Cypress is the single biggest cause of gardening disputes between neighbours, according to research by the BBC programme Gardeners' World. □ It is the fastest growing tree in Britain and can reach 100 feet in the right conditions.

□ It grows at the rate of three feet a year and is exceptional in that it grows all year round. □ The distinguished gardening writer Christopher Lloyd describes the Leylandia as an extremely useful tree "if you want to blot out your neighbour quickly."

ton trees. Retribution was swift. Injunctions came flying across the fence for criminal damage and over the next seven years they notched up £100,000 in legal fees. The Joneses won the fight. The Stanton's were forced to pay costs. "In 25 years in this job I've never seen anything like it," said Barry Kenwood, the tree surgeon who started shearing yesterday morning. "I agree entirely with Mr Jones. Everyone has got a right to sunlight in their garden."

Mrs Stanton told the Guardian through her letter box yesterday that her husband would not be making any comment. "Yes, he is under stress, but this has been going on for years. Today is washing day, I will be doing my washing and we will be getting on with things as normal," she said. The only question now is what will happen to the 10-foot tree tips. Mr Stanton has warned Mr Jones that he might build a bonfire and smoke him out.

Missing toddler found dead

Boy drowned in rubbish-filled ditch, writes Duncan Campbell

THE body of the child who went missing from a travellers' site on Sunday afternoon was found in a 9ft deep ditch yesterday, 10 yards from where he was last seen. John Bristow, apparently fell in and was trapped in the water under a pile of rubbish.

His body was found at 3.55pm yesterday by a police diver during a second search of the Running Watergate site in Lodd, Kent, where the 21-month-old boy and his family lived. The child was reported missing on Sunday afternoon. There were fears that he had been abducted, and a large operation was launched by Kent police.

Divers, a helicopter, members of the family and local volunteers searched the area in freezing temperatures throughout the night. Among the places searched was the ditch where the body was found.

Detective Chief Inspector Andrew Felton of Kent police who headed the investigation said yesterday that the body had been found close to where John was last seen. The ditch was full of dirty water and rubbish, and it appeared that the child had been trapped by the rubbish.

Chief Inspector Felton said that the ditch was about 9ft deep and full of dirty water, old iron and rubbish. The body was fully clothed, and



John Bristow, found just 10 yards from where last seen

was taken to a local hospital for a post-mortem. "It is believed he was wedged beneath some old iron and rubbish that's actually underneath the surface some three or four feet," said Mr

Felton. "He was found by a police diver who, as you can probably understand, is feeling a little bit traumatised at the whole process."

He added that his sympathy was with the family over this "very, very traumatic incident". He defended the police search operation in response to questions as to how the boy had not been noticed in the initial trawl of the site.

"What I would want to say is this: we have conducted an extremely thorough search," he said. "Last night officers were engaged until three in the morning in temperatures below freezing trying to conduct a search."

"When we last had the diving team here just imagine what the circumstances were like. The wind was howling, it was freezing cold and it was absolutely pitch black," he added.

Blake sued over profits from MI6 memoirs

Alex Bellis

GEORGE Blake, the former double agent, should not receive money for his memoirs even though they did not disclose any secret information, it was argued in the High Court yesterday.

In a case which has far-reaching implications for all Crown servants who seek to publish autobiographical material, the Government claimed Mr Blake should forfeit all his profits simply because he broke the trust of MI6.

Mr Blake, who lives on a KGB pension in Moscow, is being sued by the Attorney General for £90,000 earned from No Other Choice, chronicling his life as an MI6 agent.

Philip Havers, representing the Attorney General, said that although the book was no breach of confidence — Mr Blake had given the Russians all the confidential information in it years before — he still had a "fiduciary duty" to his former bosses.

It is believed to be the first time the Government has made such a wide-reaching claim. In the Spycatcher case, when the Crown tried to prevent the former MI6 employee, Peter Wright, from publishing his memoirs, the House of Lords appeal found that Mr Wright's duty was one of maintaining secrecy.

As the Government is claiming only that Mr Blake breached trust, the case could — if successful — stop all Crown servants from publishing work without authority. Mr Havers told the Vice-Chancellor, Sir Richard Scott: "As a member of the Special Intelligence Service [Mr

Blake] owed two duties which persisted after the termination of his duties to the Crown in addition to the duty of confidence.

"Firstly a duty not to use his position as a former member of the SIS so as to make for himself an unauthorised profit. Secondly a duty not to use property acquired by reason of his position as a former member of the SIS — including intangible property such as confidential information — so as to make for himself an unauthorised profit."

Mr Blake, aged 73, did not appear and was not represented. But the Attorney General had asked Lord Lester to assist the court as *amicus curiae*, a rare appointment made only when important issues are involved and one of the parties is not represented.

Lord Lester argued that if a former security officer was barred from publishing his autobiography because he was employed by the Crown, then government ministers should also be stopped from publishing their memoirs. He said that, to sue for breach of confidence, the Government has to prove it is in the public interest to restrain publication.

Mr Blake originally received a £25,000 advance for the book, which came out in 1988. The Government acted too late to apply for this money, which was put in a trust for his two sons.

The further £90,000 owed by publishers Jonathan Cape was frozen by a High Court judgment two years ago. In Moscow yesterday, Mr Blake said he was unaware the case was on. He said: "I have already written [the memoir] off in my mind... I don't really care any more." The case continues.

British units' secret war in Bosnia 'killed hundreds'

continued from page 1

weaving an intelligence web in preparation for the air strikes which bombed the warring parties to the table. The UN secretary-general's special envoy to Bosnia, Yasushi Akashi, was perturbed to discover that the SAS was involved in an undercover war.

An SAS officer tells the Guardian how one unit was

stranded in the Gorazde enclave in April 1994, and stopped by a Serbian patrol. The patrol of 15 Serbs was wiped out within a minute of shooting by the SAS.

The SAS's operations became legendary among UN colleagues. A favourite joke among the French army's 24th Infantry Regiment around BiHac was: "If you get

injured, make sure it doesn't happen near one of those British ambulances."

The use of ambulances for intelligence work caused backstage argument at UN headquarters in Zagreb.

French soldiers recall one incident concerning covert "ambulance" teams around BiHac. An ambulance marked as belonging to Humberside

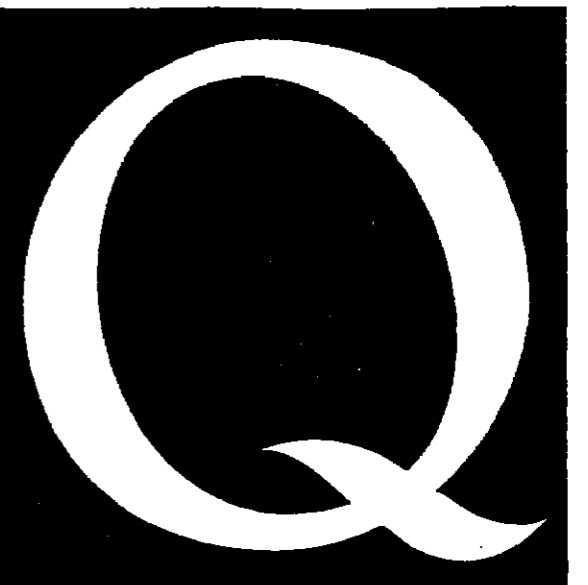
health authority had veered into a gorge and French troops tried to inspect the wreckage.

Two unhurt and unconcerned British soldiers in unmarked fatigues told them not to bother. Clearly, the French soldiers said, the "Humberside ambulance" had contained top secret material and been deliberately destroyed.

Modern Conservatives have never loved this court. Although a Tory government, under Churchill, built it and drafted the human rights convention it operates, it has been swept into the fear and loathing of all things European which have gripped the Thatcher and Major governments.

Hugo Young page 9

New issue OUT NOW!



"One million cash? It's just paper."



... Or so says Dolores O'Riordan of **The Cranberries**. This month, "Bono's little sister" opens her hobnailed pixie heart to Q — exclusively — and talks frankly of bed, bank accounts and bad boyfriends: "I'm pig-headed and stubborn and I love to do things a certain way."

PLUS! Rock Follies! From David Bowie to Dylan to Dalis Car, we name the 50 albums that should never have been made...

ALSO! Five hours of New York nookie with Sting, 60 years of singing, scandal and sorrow with Pavarotti, three weeks of transatlantic trousering with Oasis, and a deluge of debauchery with Led Zepplin.

AND! Celine Dion! Edwyn Collins! Sleeper! Tori Amos! TV Cops! Transistor radios!

ADDITIONALLY! In the world's first marinated reviews section: Mark Knopfler, ABC, Take That, Pulp and Tina Turner.



Q Out now!

NO NEED TO ARGUE.

Inmate 'sent to court in a nightie'

Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

A PRISONER in Holloway, Britain's largest women's jail, was forced to attend court last year wearing only a pink nightie because of a clothes shortage.

The prison's board of visitors reveals today that even basic underwear and shoes were not available for inmates after the management suspended the WRVS clothing store last summer to enable a new pharmacy to be built on the site.

"No alternative plans were made and a degrading situation developed... One woman attended court in a nightie because she had nothing else to wear. To date there is still no clothing provision, and many women are dependent upon the charity of staff and volunteers," says the annual report of the board of visitors for Holloway Prison.

Rachel Palmer, the board's chairman, says there has been a marked improvement since the Chief Inspector of Prisons walked out because it was filthy, and a national scandal broke over the chaining of pregnant prisoners.

"Five or six black bags of rats have been taken out in the past few weeks. The rub-

bish has gone and more staff have been recruited, but the lack of basic clothes is a symptom of a service that has gone wrong," she says.

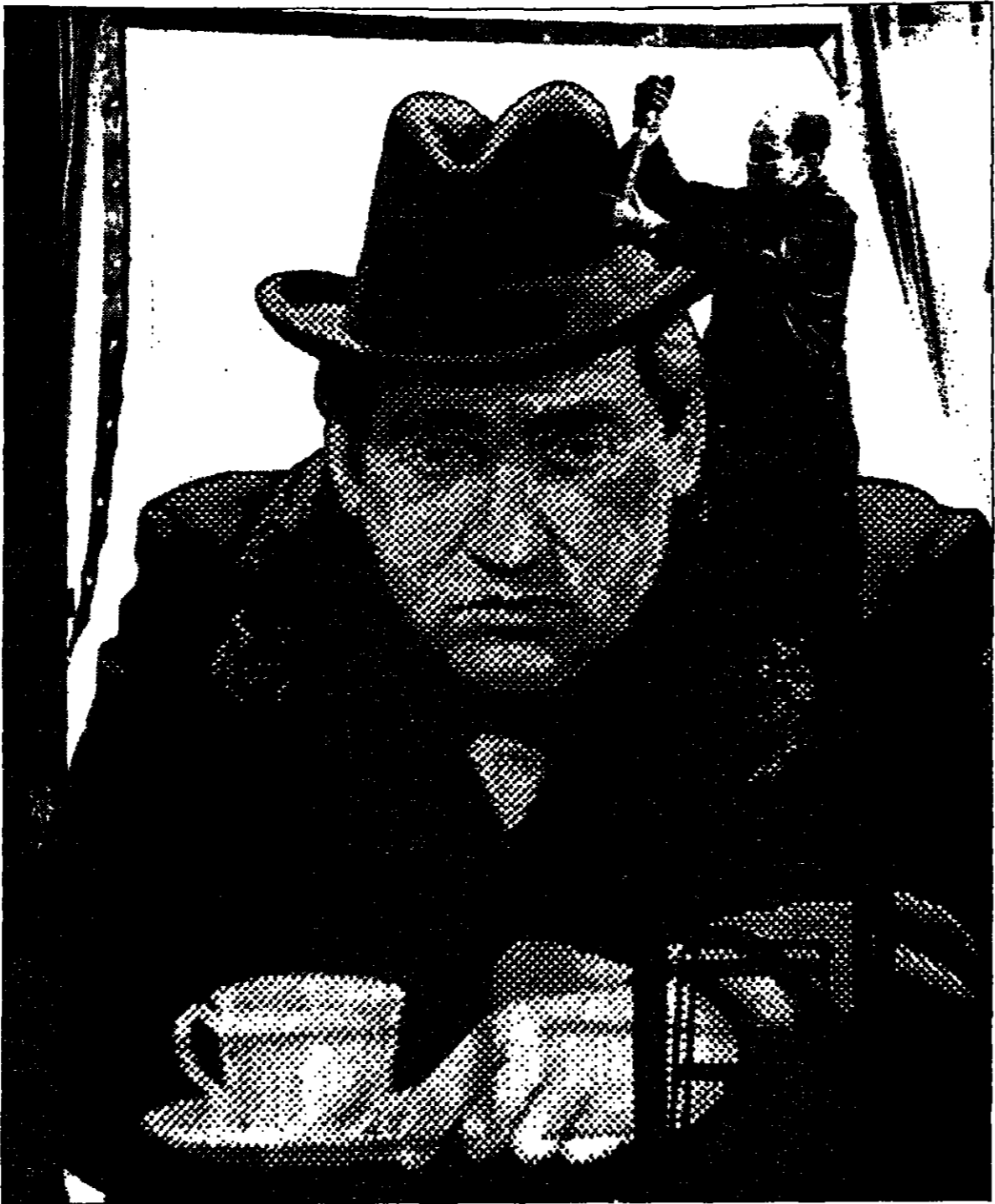
"It is a fundamental right of women to be decently clothed. It is basic to justice that they should be well presented for court."

The board says the clothes crisis was particularly acute for foreign "drug mules", the homeless, and the mentally ill who often arrived at the prison with only the clothes they stood up in.

The situation was exacerbated last autumn by staff shortages, which meant that even though some women had clothes sent in, they could not collect them because the parcels office was closed.

The report concludes that in 1995 the delicate balance between custody, care and justice, was tilted in favour of custody at Holloway, that "fundamental systems broke down, basic services were not provided and an oppressive regime resulted."

• **The Home Secretary, Michael Howard**, indicated last night he has given up his search for a private sector figure to take over from the sacked prisons director-general, Derek Lewis. Instead, he appointed Richard Tilt, who has been acting director-general.



Bruce Williams with his sculpture of Tony Hancock, to be unveiled in Old Square, Birmingham, on May 13. The tribute to the comedian was sponsored by the drug charity Turning Point and by Anzells, the brewers. PHOTOGRAPH: ROGER BAKER

'Cannibal dined on deception'

John Mulfin

HE called himself Steele — David Steele. Not the bloke who told his Liberal followers back in 1981 to go home and prepare for government, but a pop star who enjoyed rather more success in the decade following his politician namesake's prize hyperbole.

He was really Paul Vagg, aged 29, and he claimed he was David Steele, bass guitarist with The Fine Young Cannibals. Vagg had suggested singers. Tests for one were fruitful.

Mr Levine, thinking he was dealing with Mr Steele, then arranged the restaurant visit.

Mr Levine told the jury he had liked the man he believed was David Steele very much. He had never doubted him. He had once asked for one of the group's albums. Vagg produced a copy of *The Raw and The Cooked*, pointed to a picture of Mr Steele, and said: "I've put on a lot of weight since then."

But Mr Levine admitted that Vagg had never asked for anything. He accepted he had had to persuade a reluctant Vagg to go to the restaurant.

The trial continues today.

had been using the musician's name for years. "To call myself David Steele is not an offence. What would be an offence is utilising that to obtain a benefit, and that is something I am 100 per cent confident I have not gone out to do."

Peter Gray, prosecuting, said Vagg's deception began when he phoned Mr Levine and mentioned details of *The Fine Young Cannibals*. Vagg had suggested singers. Tests for one were fruitful.

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Sixth-form trio 'exulted' in attack

THREE middle class boys were last night pondering their future in a young offenders' institute after being sentenced for going on a drunken rampage.

Judge John Curran said sixth-formers Andrew Groom, David Vadden and David Willey "exulted" in an attack on a church caretaker and another man who came to his rescue.

Sentencing them at Cardiff crown court, the judge said: "There cannot be a separate law for those with intelligence."

Groom, Vadden and Willey were all pupils at Cardiff High School when they broke from their A level studies to go on a beer and cider binge last May after celebrating VE Day in a pub near their homes in the affluent suburb of Cyncoed, Cardiff.

As they walked home, disabled caretaker Eric Co-



Drunken rampage: From left, Andrew Groom, David Vadden and David Willey

bourne and Ian Birtle, a book keeper, were attacked by the teenagers, the court heard.

Mr Cobourne, 50, was kicked in the face outside his church while Mr Birtle, 33, was knocked almost unconscious as he tried to stop the attack.

David Aubrey, prosecuting, said: "When they left the pub they were drunk, rowdy and destructive — and they were violent."

"They rampaged around the streets of this normally quiet suburb behaving like drunken hooligans."

"The three then came across Mr Cobourne. Mr Cobourne was verbally abused and then Groom threw a

bottle at his head, leaving him with a wound that needed several stitches."

He said that Groom, a doctor's son, laughed and told his friends: "My aim is usually that good."

The jury heard that Mr Cobourne was then kicked in the head by Vadden.

Mr Aubrey said: "This man had his head down, when Vadden carried out what can only be described as a football volley to his head. It's claimed Vadden then turned to friends and boasted 'Did you see that — his nose just exploded.'"

Asked why they had picked on Mr Cobourne, Vadden replied: "He was obviously

not a Cyncoed person, he was different."

Mr Birtle was attacked and then chased down the road before being kicked and punched by the youths.

They admitted violent disorder and causing actual bodily harm, but denied attempting to cause grievous bodily harm.

They were convicted of the charge.

Groom and Vadden were also found guilty of wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm on Mr Cobourne. Groom and Vadden were sent to a young offenders' centre for two years while Willey was ordered to be detained for 18 months.

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Olympics bid boosted

Rule change on lottery cash promotes sport and arts talent

John Duncan
and David Ward

THE chances of the Olympics coming to Britain in 2008 were significantly increased yesterday with an announcement that the Government will make lottery money available to help attract top sporting events.

The bid is centred on a new £200 million national stadium — probably at Wembley — and lottery money will ensure that the cash-strapped British Olympic Association is not hindered in its efforts to bring the games to Britain for the first time since 1948.

Other changes announced included permission for lot-

tery funding for individuals, which will help to develop sports and arts talent.

The National Lottery has so far raised £1.7 billion for the five "good causes" fund distribution boards, with arts and sports receiving £300 million each. But until now money could only be spent on buildings, equipment and other facilities.

The Sports Council yesterday welcomed the changes, whose immediate effect will be a boost to Olympic competitors before the Atlanta games. "Competing at this level is almost a full-time job and we do not believe that representation should mean financial hardship," said Rodney Walker, chairman of the Sports Council.

"We hope that this will make it easier for those dedicated to their sport at regional and national level to train and compete."

Announcing the changes the Heritage Secretary, Virginia Bottomley, said: "The new rules will provide a flow of funds directly to the young and talented, so that they can excel, pushing themselves to their own limits, inspiring others and bringing pleasure to the millions who will cheer them on to success."

The theatre world also also responded positively to the changes. Sue Reddish, director of the youth theatre run by the Bolton Octagon company in Greater Manchester, said that it would allow the Octagon, which has bid for £95,000 of lottery money not allowable under the old rules, to fund a youth worker to take theatre work to some of Bolton's most deprived areas.

Victory for Bottomley in battle over charities board

THE Heritage Secretary, Virginia Bottomley, yesterday won a Whitehall battle for control of the National Lottery Charities Board and oversight of government policy on the voluntary sector as a whole, writes David Brindle.

The Prime Minister announced that responsibility

for charity matters, volunteering and almost all voluntary sector issues would transfer as soon as possible from the Home Office to Mrs Bottomley's Department of National Heritage.

The switch, a big boost for the department, means Mrs Bottomley will now have con-

trol of all five National Lottery grant-making boards.

Stuart Etherington, chief executive of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, said the transfer of responsibility would give the sector a more focused approach by government and a stronger voice in Cabinet.

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Professor says public underestimates tough use of jail sentences

Judges 'not as soft on crime as people think'

Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

THE conventional wisdom that the courts are much more lenient than the public would like is challenged in research by a university professor.

The public do believe that the courts are too soft on criminals but they also underestimate the use of prison by judges and magistrates, according to Michael Hough of South Bank university, London.

The belief that the judges are "soft" underpins the white paper introducing tougher minimum sentences to be published by the Home Secretary tomorrow. The research, *People Talking About Punishment*, was financed by the Nuffield Foundation.

Half the public think that 50 per cent or fewer rapists are sent to prison. In fact 91 per cent of rapists are imprisoned.

Half thought that 20 per cent or fewer convicted burglars to be prison. In fact 41 per cent are jailed.

Half thought that 20 per cent or fewer convicted muggers go to prison. In fact well over 50 per cent are jailed.

Professor Hough said the sentences that people advocate are often in line with current practice.

"Our respondents were, in the main, very punitive towards offenders. Where they advocated prison sentences, they often wanted longer sentences, and they wanted these served in full."

"This was marked for the more serious crimes which we considered, for rape in particular."

Many of those questioned

also proposed castration — "by no means frivolously" — as a way of dealing with rapists.

Among the widespread misunderstandings are that prison is rarely used; that rapists get suspended sentences and burglars and street robbers are fined or even cautioned.

The study recommends that the sentences need to be made "more transparent" so that people can understand how much time is served. It also says that the "more substantial misperceptions" about sentencing need to be corrected.

It says this task cannot be left to the media which concentrate on the grotesquely lenient or punitive sentences.

The study criticises the courts for not giving a general indication of the "going rate" for a particular crime and says getting hold of such

information is difficult without a special run of the Home Office computer.

"Little wonder, under such circumstances, that the public has no idea of the going rate. Little surprise too, at the lack of any informed public debate over the severity of current sentences."

Professor Hough warns that public appetite for tougher punishment will never be satisfied by longer prison sentences as long as the underlying problem about the misperception about sentencing remains unchanged.

There is a danger of getting on a treadmill of tougher and tougher sentences which would be politically difficult to stop.

People Talking About Punishment, Professor Michael Hough, is to be published later this year by the Howard Journal.

Officers urge Home Secretary to block parole for police killer Harry Roberts

Duncan Campbell on cause of force's anger



Harry Roberts: 'The police aren't like real people to us'

THE Police Federation has urged the Home Secretary to stop parole being granted to Harry Roberts, who was jailed for the murder of three police officers 30 years ago.

The Probation Service had contacted relatives of the officers and the federation to say Roberts was applying for parole and would be intending to live in the London area if released.

Under the Victims' Charter, it is standard practice in such cases to let relatives of victims know when a prisoner is to be released.

Roberts, now 59, was jailed for life in December 1966 for the murder of three police officers in Shepherd's Bush, west London. He was on the run for three months.

The trial judge recommended that Roberts serve a minimum of 30 years. Two other men were convicted with him. John Duddy died in jail and Jack Witney, who did not fire the fatal shots, was freed in 1992.

Fred Broughton, chairman of the Police Federation, has written to the Probation Service saying Roberts should never be considered for parole, and Mike Bennett, chairman of the Metropolitan Police Federation, has written to Michael Howard to demand that Roberts never be released.

Mr Bennett said: "We owe

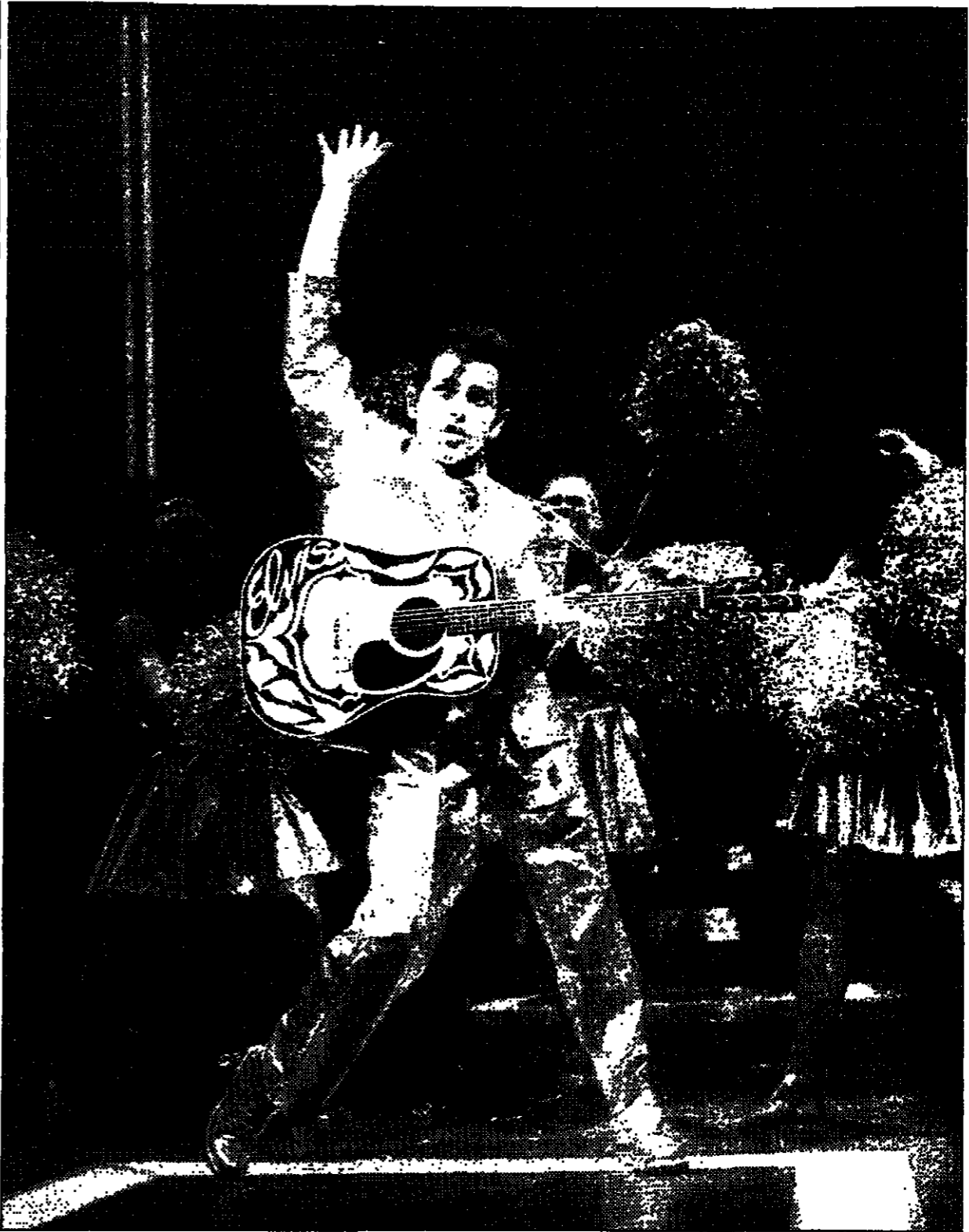
it to police officers who were serving then, and those who are still serving, that this sentence is a deterrent."

The Police Federation supports the death penalty for the murder of police officers. The issue will be debated at this year's Police Federation conference in Scarborough next month.

Roberts was told he would be considered for parole in 1992 but this process was cancelled.

In an interview with the Guardian in 1993 at Dartmoor prison, he said: "I can't prove I'm not a risk."

One of the factors considered when parole is discussed is remorse. In the interview, Roberts said: "The police aren't like real people to us. They're strangers. They're the enemy... I do feel sorry for what we did to their families. But it's like people I killed in Malaysia (when in the army). You don't feel remorse."



Tim Whitnall as Elvis Presley rehearsing yesterday for *Elvis - The Musical*, opening at the Prince of Wales Theatre, London, on April 15. Alexander Bar and PJ Proby play the singer in his younger and later years. PHOTOGRAPH BY HAMILTON NEWS

GPs lose cash loophole

Doctors who quit fundholding barred from creaming off profits

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

MINISTERS are closing a loophole which has allowed family doctors to quit the fundholding scheme with past profits while leaving current losses to be met by their local health authority.

The loophole was exposed when it emerged that a fundholding practice in Plympton, Devon, planned to resign from the scheme last weekend with a £50,000 surplus accrued in previous years, leaving £60,000 losses for 1995-96.

Fundholding practices approved in 1991. During the first four years in the scheme, it built up an overall surplus of just under £100,000 by under-spending the budgets it was given to pay for patients' drugs and non-urgent hospital care.

In the fifth year, however, it recorded anticipated losses of £112,000, against which it agreed to set half its accumulated surplus.

Fundholding practices can spend savings on anything that they can demonstrate would improve patient care. This includes practice premises and equipment, even though such assets are the property of the partners, and

the budgets are intended to pay for treatment.

According to an Audit Commission report last year, 60 per cent of savings spent had gone on premises, furnishings and practice or office equipment.

The Government is acting to ensure that the accumulated savings of a practice quitting fundholding are used first to clear any current deficit. Statutory regulations due to take effect this month will require a former fundholding practice to apply any accumulated savings to discharge its outstanding liabilities.

The regulations provide that in the event of a fundholding partnership splitting, any savings will be divided. The changes come as fundholding passes the 50 per cent mark.

Facts prove strange as fiction on day of tall tales

Andrew Cuff
Media Correspondent

IT WAS April Fool's Day, but even so, the stories in yesterday's newspapers strained credibility almost to breaking point.

They were an implausible crop: the Daily Mail reported that Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, was prepared to quit over the Government's disastrous handling of the BSE crisis, while the Daily Telegraph made front page news out of Railtrack's instructions to staff to travel by car.

In fact these apparently tall stories were genuine tales sitting alongside countless laboriously-crafted spoofs to mark April 1. The Daily Mirror reported that Lancashire Water had dyed water orange in its reservoirs to prevent Yorkshire Water from siphoning it off.

According to the Telegraph, BBC presenters Martyn Lewis and Peter Sissons face the chop because they are above the European Union's newly-implemented newsreading height limit of 6ft.

Only half-awake listeners to BBC Radio 4's Today programme would have fallen for a report revealing that the shadow Welsh secretary Ron Davies — and vocal critic of the Prince of Wales — was distantly related to the royal family and 15th in line to the throne. Mr Davies and the former Welsh secretary, John Redwood, played along with the scam.

Advertisers tried to cash in on the date too: Mars trumpeted the arrival of the left-handed Mars Bar, the Labour Party advertised a £2,030 tax refund being offered by the Tories.

and Virgin Cola took the fizz out of Pepsi's planned blue can relaunch with a warning: "If the can turns blue the Cola's gone flat".

BMW unveiled its Insect Deflector Screen to keep windcreens bug-free, developed by German scientists.

Dr Jurgen Afalfurt (You're going to fall for it).

Guardian Internet users who logged on to the Queen's web-site at <http://www.windsor.co.uk> were greeted with a disappointing access-barred exclamation mark.

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Bob Drogin reports from Amuru on the violent Christian fanatics intent on returning their country to another dark age of bloodshed

Cult army shatters Uganda's peace

BRIGADIER General Chete All, army commander of northern Uganda, held his gleaming cavalry sword high as he mounted the back of a bicycle pedalled by an aide and charged off into the bush to inspect the depredations of Africa's latest nightmare.

For two hours, terrified villagers told him of atrocities and attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army, a Christian fundamentalist cult led by a self-proclaimed prophet with a murderous manner.

Okeya Santo, a school-teacher, aged 32, told how the rebels shouted: "Teachers come out!" when they came to

his hamlet late last year. When he emerged from his hut, they shot him in the chest and arms. "I said, 'You are killing me for no reason.' They said, 'You are a teacher. We don't want teachers.' His right arm had to be amputated at the elbow.

The guerrillas returned last month. This time they burned 17 thatched huts and the school. Four villagers stepped on land mines left by the retreating rebels; one was killed and three lost limbs.

In Tony Maritus's charred hut, someone left a message scratched on the mud bricks: "This war will not end."

That much is clear. Since

stepping up their attacks in early February, members of the Lord's Resistance Army have killed at least 250 people, mostly civilians, and abducted hundreds more. They

At first, Mr Kony's troops sliced the lips, ears or arms off their victims

say their goal is to topple the government of President Yoweri Museveni and install a regime dedicated to enforcing the Ten Commandments.

Mr Museveni has transformed Uganda since he seized power in 1986. The economy is the fastest-growing in Africa, the press is free, and presidential elections are scheduled for May.

But progress, at least in the north, is now held hostage by a former Catholic altar boy, Joseph Kony.

Mr Kony's army is an outgrowth of the Holy Spirit Movement, a Christian cult that ravaged northern Uganda in the late 1980s. It was led by Alice Lakwena, who claimed she was possessed by the angry spirit of a long-dead Italian soldier.

Mr Kony, reportedly her cousin, became her successor

after she went into exile in 1988. He also claimed he was controlled by spirits. But backed by officers once loyal to the former dictator Milton Obote, Mr Kony soon eclipsed his mentor.

At first his troops sliced the lips, ears or arms off their victims. Later, anyone seen riding a bicycle or owning white chickens was slain. These days, the owners of white pigs are killed.

Mr Kony said he cut off lips to stop people from reporting his whereabouts. Similarly, in an area without phones or cars, he targeted bicycles to stop people from warning the authorities. And chickens?

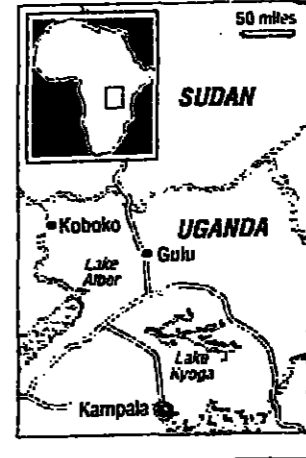
"White chickens are alleg-

people," said Matthew Lukwya, deputy medical superintendent. He complains that government forces have "no sense of urgency" because only civilians are attacked.

That might change. Last week a large rebel force attacked an army outpost for the first time, wounding three soldiers.

Gen All, the bicycle-riding army commander, insists he is making progress. But he is frustrated. The rebels attack at night when helicopters are useless, and they strike where least expected.

"We have been working a long time without achieving very much," he admitted sadly. — Los Angeles Times



A little intifada but with one vital difference

Derek Brown in Bir Zeit

IT WAS, at first sight, just like the old days. A thin line of Israeli soldiers stood on a ridge, being ineffectually pelted with stones by students. Every time the students ventured forward, a canister of tear gas leaped towards them. From time to time there was a whoop of delight as a canister was picked up and hurled back.

The scene could have been time-warped from the intifada, the Palestinian uprising of the late 1980s, with one vital difference: between the students and the Israeli troops, making no impression on either, was a small contingent of Palestinian police.

Their dark blue uniforms stood out against the stony slope in Atarah hamlet outside Bir Zeit as they vainly tried to push back the stone-throwers.

The ignominious role of the Palestinian police has become a central issue in the West Bank since Israel imposed a travel and trade blockade more than a month ago, after the Islamist suicide bombings in Newham. It is the most contentious than in Bir Zeit, home of the territory's most prestigious university. Last week Israeli para-

troopers raided the university campus and surrounding villages. Landing from helicopters before dawn, they burst into dormitories and apartments, rounding up students and herding them on to a football field for interrogations. In six hours more than 370 men were arrested, of whom 250 were Bir Zeit students and staff.

Israeli military men said they were searching for "terrorists". All but a dozen or so have been released.

Two days later Palestinian police in the autonomous enclave of Nablus broke up a student protest rally at an-Najah university, firing live rounds and tear gas. Two students were shot and wounded, and 10 others injured.

President Yasser Arafat has ordered an inquiry, but students and other West Bankers are unimpressed.

"We don't know who is more against us, our government or the Israelis," said "Ibrahim", a 20-year-old second year student of psychology at Bir Zeit, who escaped from the paratroopers last Thursday by leaping from his apartment window and hiding on a hillside. He is from the Gaza Strip, and all Gaza students in the West Bank have been ordered home.

"Everyone from Gaza is a terrorist who wants to destroy Israel," he said yesterday, with weary irony. "It is really not fair. I don't have anything to do with Gaza."

He has not seen his family, who live in Khan Yunis refugee camp, for two years. He would like to go home, but he does not dare try to pass through the Israeli checkpoints. And now he lives, semi-underground, in the nearby self-rule enclave of Ramallah, which means that on his daily trip to the university he has to pass through Palestinian checkpoints.

About 30 Gaza students captured last Thursday have been sent home; deported from one part of autonomous Palestine to another. Other are luckier, but no less angry. Waqar Ahmed, from London, talked of students being handcuffed, blindfolded and beaten. "This was a terrorist act, committed to boost the election campaign."

Bir Zeit's frustration became tangible yesterday when a couple of thousand staff and students demonstrated outside the municipal headquarters and police station. It was brief and peaceful, and that did not match the mood of a minority, who ignored the call to return to the campus, and instead made for the hamlet of Atarah, to hurl stones at Israeli soldiers guarding the bypass built for Jewish settlers.

It was, by the standards of the intifada, a small-scale confrontation. But in the new surrealism of the West Bank — Ramallah is autonomous, Atarah is Israeli-controlled, and Bir Zeit itself is supposedly shared — the little riot on the hillside could have been a harbinger of something infinitely more ugly.

Japan has given the Palestinian Authority almost \$14 million for health and education projects in the self-rule areas.



A Palestinian girl carries an olive branch at a protest against closures in the Gaza Strip. PHOTOGRAPH BY AHMED JADALLAN

Jobs axed at UN

Mark Tran in New York

THE United Nations yesterday started axing jobs at the worst financial crisis in the organisation's history began to bite.

Joseph Connor, its top manager, began briefings spelling out to member states the progress he has made to cut the staff of 10,000 by 10 per cent. The bulk of the cuts are expected to come from non-replacements while between 250 and 300 staff will be paid off.

A shrinking budget and late payments by member states are to blame. Washington, the biggest defaulter, owes \$1.5 billion (£1 billion). At the beginning of the year, half the UN's members had not paid last year's dues and the organisation is owed \$3.1 billion.

The crisis could mean a total shutdown by November. Mr Connor, formerly chairman of Price Waterhouse, was brought in at the behest of the US to apply private sector management techniques to cut out waste. He has managed to keep the UN going by borrowing money out of the UN peacekeeping budget to pay salaries and other expenses.

The end of the UN's Bosnian operation will mean a big drop in the cost of peacekeeping, but it spells trouble in the short term as Mr Connor cannot dip into this source of funds to make up for the shortfall in the regular budget.

Last year, the secretariat asked the general assembly to approve an operating budget of \$2.8 billion for this year and next. The assembly voted for a budget of \$2.6 billion and then asked for another \$104 million in cuts.

Peres promises referendum

THE Israeli prime minister, Shimon Peres, said yesterday he would ask for a referendum before signing a final accord with the Palestinians on the fate of Jerusalem and Jewish settlers.

His unexpected announcement, reported by army radio, was made on a trip to the Gulf to boost trade and shore up domestic support for his peace moves.

Talks on Arab East Jerusalem, the 130,000 Jewish settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the return of Palestinian refugees are due to start next month.

Binyamin Netanyahu, leader of the hardline opposition Likud party, told the radio: "I am puzzled by the attempts by Mr Peres to bypass the real referendum. A real referendum is the elections." — Reuter.

Table dancers sidestep recession in Mexico

Phil Gunson reports on the lucrative sex trade in the capital's illegal night clubs where workers can earn £1,500 a month

IT IS 5.30 on a Friday afternoon and Salda is wearing an engaging smile and practically nothing else.

The 20-year-old from Jalisco state spends the whole of her working week in various states of undress: she's a worker in one of the few Mexican industries apparently booming despite the recession — the sex trade.

"This is the business to be in," she grins. "I'm sure there are not many engineers or professors making as much as I do."

As a stripper in one of the hundreds of "night clubs" which have mushroomed in the centre of Mexico City, Salda takes home about £1,500 a month — twice what she used to earn as a saleswoman selling reconditioned motors.

When the recession hit in December 1994, and the peso slumped to half its previous value, the price of imported parts for the cars put them out of reach of many customers. Salda was laid off.

With qualifications in dressmaking, tourism and public relations, she thought she would have no trouble getting another job.

"The problem," she says, "is that if you have a good body, most bosses want to get you in the sack."

Ironically, she feels safer taking her clothes off in public. "The clients treat you like a queen," she says.

Carrillo Castro, has promised a campaign against the illegal strip joints.

The district has been contributing more than its share to a 40 per cent increase in Mexico City crime figures since late 1994. Local residents blame the clubs for attracting criminals.

Alarmed at the prospect of a campaign against businesses they say employ 20,000 people, the night-club workers' union held a demonstration to demand that Mr Carrillo Castro regulate the clubs instead of trying to shut them down.

"They want to take our jobs away, but they don't say what we should do instead," says one union member.

The workers may, however, count themselves lucky that Mexico City is still run as a department of the central government, rather than ruled — as are many provincial cities — by the conservative Catholics of the opposition National Action Party (PAN).

The party has acquired a reputation for moral crusades against everything from mini-skirts to the so-called "table dancers" which in Mexico City at least seems to have little to do with tables and a lot to do with bodily contact.

"I used to work in PAN-governed Tijuana," says Salda, "and there they make you dance on the table. It's no fun at all."

Time may be running out for the table dancers, as the first direct elections for the city government are to be held next year. In the meantime the fun seems set to continue.

News in brief

Rebel prisoners refuse deal

NMATES holding 23 hostages at a maximum security prison have rejected the Brazilian government's offer of guns, money and getaway cars, pushing the stand-off to its fourth day yesterday.

"We're at an impasse," Captain Adailton Florentino do Nascimento of the Goias state police said.

Inmates at the prison in Aparecida de Goiania, a small town 580 miles northwest of Rio de Janeiro, seized 40 officials and reporters on Thursday during a tour of the overcrowded prison. They later released 17 hostages in exchange for food and water.

Negotiations between officials and the rebel ring leader Leonardo Pareja, a convicted kidnapper and bank robber, broke down on Sunday. The convicts are said to have made new, undisclosed demands. — AP.

Turabi back in public role

THE Sudanese parliament elected the Islamist leader Hassan al-Turabi as Speaker yesterday, putting him back in public office after more than six years as an ideologist active behind the scenes.

His election consecrates the close alliance between himself and President Omar Hassan al-Bashir.

Mr Turabi, aged 64, won a seat in parliament last month in roughly the same Khartoum constituency he lost in multi-party elections 10 years ago. His main opponent abandoned campaigning, citing voting irregularities. — Reuter.

Rwandans held in Cameroon

A dozen Rwandans suspected of involvement in the massacre of at least 500,000 people in 1994 are being held in Yaounde, Cameroon, officials said yesterday. They include Theoneste Bagosora, a former colonel accused of masterminding the killings. — AP.

UN food appeal

UN officials appealed for Liberia's warring factions to open a safe corridor so aid agencies can deliver food to people trapped by fighting in Tubmanburg, north-west Liberia. — AP.

Lagos opposition

Nigerian pro-democracy groups agreed at weekend meetings in Oso and Johannesburg to form an umbrella organisation, the United Democratic Front of Nigeria, to oppose General Sani Abacha's military regime and restore civilian rule. The group said in a statement. — Reuter.

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صكتا من الامل

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Over the top... A British Warrior fighting vehicle in Gornji Vakuf. Guns were routinely locked on the cemetery, a hotbed of snipers



'I used to think long and hard about whether it was right to kill these people. And I decided that it was. The aid got through. Hundreds of thousands of people were saved' Brigadier Alastair Duncan

Shootbat squaddies' hidden battles

British troops did more than hold a line between the factions, writes Ed Vulliamy. When they were pushed over the edge, they shot back



THE British Army's covert war in Bosnia began in October 1992 when, in fog, troops set up three bases, at Tomislavgrad, Gornji Vakuf and Vitez. Until they arrived the war was being fought between a Muslim-Croat alliance against the Serbs, and the British bases were well behind the lines. But the very week that 12 men of the 1st Battalion, 22 Cheshire Regiment, pitched up at Vitez schoolhouse, war broke out — between the erstwhile Croatian and Muslim allies.

It was a ferocious fight in which the British became more closely involved than history has hitherto recorded. The British were heavily provoked, particularly by the Croats, who were ideologically inhospitable from the start. As nationalists, they had long memories of Churchill's backing of Tito. As fervent Catholics, they crowded about Northern Ireland.

Lieutenant Colonel Bob Stewart was defiant about his right to open fire on anyone obstructing the delivery of aid — to the horror of tepid Whitehall. But despite his larger-than-life, pleasantly immodest presence, he preferred to play what he now calls 'chess' with the Croatian army, the HVO. When Croat snipers took up positions around his base or convoys, he simply went out himself "and told them to get lost."

Thomir Blaskic, now due for extradition as a war criminal to The Hague. "I used to go to his headquarters and ask what all this was about. He was always 'out' or 'not available'. I said 'I'll wait'. He always emerged, embarrassed."

A senior officer says: 'There was a feeling at HQ that what was going on at Gornji was a little OTT'

to their level," Brig Duncan said. "You don't get mad, you get even, and revenge is not a civilized way to behave."

One evening the Croats fired a wire-guided anti-tank missile capable of destroying the Warrior and everyone in it. Brig Duncan said: "I thought 'whoops, we've got a problem. If we retaliate in kind to this, we'll be fighting all-out war, and will lose people'. I travelled down to Gornji thinking 'What are we here for? We're here to deliver aid'. It was clear that the situation had to be defused. The initiative for this came from our commander in Gornji, Graham Blinn, who talked at length to the Croat commanders and then, in order to test his theory, parked up his warrior in the main square with his turret pointing away from the cemetery. It worked."

Every British vehicle that turned the corner into town locked its turret on the cemetery, as though to say: "If you're ready, so are we."

Next into Vitez and Gornji were the Coldstream Guards, who "bunkered down", earning themselves the nickname "Coldfeet Guards". But bunkering down meant the Guards moved less across country, and that let the snipers get closer and meant more shooting. In Gornji Vakuf, an all-out night-time battle between the Guards and the HVO was raging. It was during this period that a delegation from the Bosnian army arrived at Gornji Vakuf base and asked (as paraphrased by a still-serving soldier): "Could you please stop shooting at the Croats, because they think it's us and we're getting all the shit for it."

Ruzica Korosec admits her Croatian husband should not have been where he was when he died in January 1994. He was in an HVO tank whose turret followed British patrols along the main street in Gornji. "He hated the British, and he hated the Muslims," she said. "I could understand fighting the Muslims, but I don't understand why they tried to fight the British."

There are no final figures for the number of dead. Unlike in Northern Ireland, soldiers who opened fire in Bosnia were not obliged to wander into minefields to inspect the damage. But the Guards' score took the total well into three figures.

THE Ministry of Defence cannot give official numbers of people killed by the British Army. The number put about at the end of the Muslim-Croat war was 38. That brought a nervous cough from senior officers on the ground, and a puckish grin from the lads. One senior commander said: "I'm a little bit of a sniggerer, but I don't think it's fair to say that we were the ones who started it."

Breton Beacons. Their brief was to weave a web of military intelligence in preparation for air strikes — and to shoot their way out of trouble.

The team went into what they call "head-on contact drill", in which each moves swiftly into position, firing like mad but in such a way that they do not shoot each other.

Yeltsin deals another snub to Ukraine

James Meek reports on the strained diplomatic relations between Moscow and Kiev as Russian elections loom

PRESIDENT Boris Yeltsin set a new record for diplomatic non-appearances yesterday when he cancelled a trip to Ukraine for the sixth time, strengthening the sense of unease in Russia's southern neighbour about future relations between the two east Slav giants.

Ukraine, a country of 50 million people beginning to find its feet after five years of economic collapse, is feeling increasingly squeezed between an expanding Nato to the west and a resurgent, nationalist Russia to the east.

Ukraine, moves to ease out Russian television channels in favour of Ukrainian ones have met with surprisingly little resistance, and the Ukrainian language is increasingly being heard on the streets of the capital — a city whose inhabitants previously always chose to speak Russian.

Idol flusters Italian poll

John Hooper in Rome

ITALIAN politicians were waiting impatiently yesterday to see whether the country's most popular public figure would throw in his lot with either of the two main blocs contesting this month's closely-run general election.

Forza Italia to trial on charges of attempted extortion. The last opinion poll allowed before the election, published yesterday, showed Mr Berlusconi's rightwing alliance in the lead with 47 per cent of the vote. But it also showed combined support for the centre and left running at more than 44 per cent.

Diary
Matthew Norman

SIR Richard Scott's attack on the Civil Service for its "culture of secrecy" has had a predictably potent effect... so potent, indeed, that it has led Sir Robin Butler to attempt to suppress an Observer survey into Whitehall attitudes. He has written to two of the largest unions (both of which have cooperated with the paper) demanding they stop sending members filling in questionnaires. A livid Sir Robin warns that the sharing of thoughts on morale, job security, political influence and privatisation would be a breach of disciplinary code: apparently — and this morsel we should take with a sprinkling of salt — such a survey could undermine Whitehall's "political impartiality". The civil servants themselves are not only ignoring Sir Butler but are giggling at him as they do so. And perhaps it is a little foolish to threaten people with punishment for answering an entirely anonymous questionnaire.

ALSO preferring anonymity is a Whitehall employee with news of a distressing reaction to the item here about the sudden removal of beef from the Health Department's canteen. Dynamo Dorell was known to be furious, as was the man responsible for internal management, Joe Pilling. "What makes their discomfiture even more enjoyable," says my correspondent, "is that the canteen is privatised, and simply following the logic of the market. Brilliant."

JOHN Martin writes from Liverpool, impudently asking how many free meals the owner of the Popeye's in the Restaurant of the Month (in Olympia, west London), which serves nothing but steak — supplied in return for "the free advert" on March 24. The answer, Mr Martin, is one. One free advert, one free meal... That's the Diary's easy-to-follow price guide. Mr Martin will be especially pleased to learn that my free 12-ounce rump, cooked rare, was superb, as was the free bottle of 1988 Chateaufort du Pape with which it was washed down.

THE long-awaited paperback print of Terry Major-Ball's autobiography — Major Major, Memories of An Older Brother (published in May at £7.99) — has arrived. The author himself appears on the cover holding a gnome, alongside this quote from Auberon Waugh: "This brilliantly enjoyable book... A man would have to be made of stone not to find Major Major exquisitely funny." Shortly, Terry leaves aboard a Qantas jet for the Melbourne Flower Show, but will not be promoting his opus there. "Oh no, that would be quite wrong, as I'm going as a guest of the state of Victoria," he tells me. "I'm very much looking forward to it. I'm sure the Australians will all be perfect ladies and gentlemen."

THE postbag to "Kelly's Dilemma" almost bulges. You may recall that the problem facing Graham Kelly, chief executive of the FA, surrounds a dinner in May at which UEFA head Lennart Johansson is due to speak. Mr Kelly is loath to offend so powerful a figure by boycotting the event because women guests are unwelcome — and yet, having just avoided another do on similar grounds, he has his reputation as football's Andy Redman to think about. So what should he do? The Reverend Paul Matthews suggests that he does go, but eschewing the black tie in favour of "something pink, frilly and flowing". It is absurd, with Mr Kelly's buttermilk complexion, pink would be calamitous.

FROM Cambodia comes a ray of sunshine for our farmers. "The English have 11 million mad cows," says a lively, if inaccurate, leader in the Cambodia Daily, "and this country has roughly the same number of mad landmines. Surely the solution is here before our very eyes in black and white." Readers that Lord William Ross-Moag has joined the paper as chief letter-writer were dismayed yesterday as April Fool mischief.



Danger — mole and bear on the loose

Commentary Hugo Young

THIS is a story of the mole burrows in the dark, to make the mounds and tunnels he dare not build by light of day. In this story, the British government, which has often cursed the moles who subvert it by exposure from within, has itself become the subverter of a structure it helped build and pretends to support. It is quietly seeking to undermine the European Court of Human Rights at Strasbourg, in which task the vanguard mole is the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind.

that London rejected and wouldn't obey. Both lots of words were pretty empty ranting. But now an alternative has emerged. The mole's alternative. Last month, Mr Rifkind circulated a paper inside the Council of Europe, the mother lode of the convention and the court, proposing an enforced adjustment in judicial attitudes. The occasion was entitled "Because of a massive overload of cases, the court structure is set for a modest streamlining, and Britain thinks it knows what is also needed: greater respect for these Euro-judges for national laws and practices. Alongside, and if possible overriding, the general human rights defined in the convention, 'full regard' should now be paid 'to decisions by democratic legislatures and to differing legal traditions'. In other words, except for 'manifest' violations, let every state do its own thing.

is, first, a breach of the usual separation of powers. He wants ministers to tell the court how it should behave. It's as if the Cabinet were to issue an instruction to the Law Lords to desist from further extensions of judicial review. In that guise, such interference would immediately be intolerable. But the proposal is contaminated, second, by obvious bad faith. It exalts the place of "democratic institutions and tribunals in Member States", as against the place of the Court of Human Rights. Yet Rifkind and his colleagues have spent the past 17 years resisting the incorporation of the convention into British law, by far the most direct route to ensuring its interpretation in accordance with the very "national perceptions" and "differing legal traditions" they're now concerned about.

Europe. What Britain subversively speaks for is a "variable geometry" of human rights. The epicentre of its destructive effect will be Russia. Russia, scandalously, has just been admitted to the Council of Europe on the basis of promises, yet to be anywhere near fulfilled, that she will meet the standards of the human-rights convention. This was not a legal decision but a political one, pushed by Germany and backed by Britain, in the teeth of every objective assessment, including the council of Europe's own. Russia's suitability in terms of either commitment to democracy, or defence of human rights, or observance of the rule of law. "Variable geometry, in Russia's case, admits into the concept of 'human rights' practices that have no place within even its largest defining circle. The barbarities in Chechnya show utter contempt for minorities. A promise to curb capital punishment, and abolish it within three years, has been followed by a sharp rise in executions authorised by the Yeltsin government on the basis, among other things, that they couldn't afford to keep everyone in prison. The wholly political nature of Russian admission, desired not least because it might take some heat out of pressure to let Russia into Nato, exposes the convention to contempt and seize-up, as the cases multiply and the court is choked by litigants demanding what Moscow will never willingly permit.

hitherto blessed by them, is supposed to convey, it says that neither court nor convention need trouble the politics of governments. And if this does not make the message strong enough, another text will: Britain, along with Germany and France, has said there will be no more money for the court, even though its likely case-load will be doubled. Nor is that the end of our sweetly sibilant duplicity. Conscious that its bona fides might be questioned, the Foreign Office notes, protesting loyalty to the convention, that Britain was among the first countries to ratify the decision that the court should, for the sake of efficiency, be streamlined. It omits the earlier fact that, along with Italy, Britain stood alone in opposing the decision to streamline it in the first place. We did not want any streamlining, positively recoiled from more efficient justice, and now seek to undermine through these mole-ish suggestions, any chance that fundamental human rights, in a continent suddenly extended towards countries which stand in desperate need of them, will achieve the juridical support they need.

Peasants' lives ruined by capitalist pigs



George Monbiot

AFRICAN swine fever came to Dominica by way of a ham sandwich on a Spanish airliner. It soon spread down the Artibonite River and over the border into Haiti. The epidemic swiftly killed one-third of that country's pigs, but, by late 1981, it seemed to be fizzling out. The US was taking no chances, however. It funded a programme to slaughter every pig in Haiti. To the peasants producing most of Haiti's food, the programme was devastating. Their small black pigs, which largely fended for themselves, were so critical to their economy that the same word was used for "pig" and for "bank". People hid their pigs in holes and caves, but President Duvalier's dreaded Tontons Macoutes rooted the animals out and had them shot. Even quarantined herds were exterminated.

Over the last 30 years the "Green Revolution" — which has introduced new crops and techniques to countries all over the Third World — has led to a tremendous increase in the volume of staple foods as rice, maize and wheat, and has helped to avert the famines predicted in the 60s. But, one by one, its promises of a secure and healthy future are falling away. A report published this week by the International Food Policy Research Institute confirms the surprising information that, even as the amount of calories consumed has risen, the prevalence of nutrition-related diseases such as iron, zinc and vitamin A deficiency has remained unchanged or has even increased. The new high-yield grain varieties are typically lower in critical nutrients than the crops they replaced. Farmers, the institute suggests, should return to varieties they were growing before, modified slightly to produce higher yields. Though they will have to relearn most of what the Green Revolution has encouraged them to unlearn, peasant farmers may not be slow to take the institute's advice. Even in the Punjab, where the Green Revolution has ostensibly been most successful, high-tech farmers are seeing soil erosion, pesticide pollution and water shortages, indebtedness, declining incomes and an unhealthy dependence on expensive farm inputs.



Sitting comfortably

Will Ken Clarke quit over Europe? Not this week, predicts Michael White — but even his patience with the sceptics of the right has its limits

EVEN for so resilient a politician as Kenneth Clarke it must occasionally be daunting to wake up and find you have been tipped the black spot yet again by Blind Pew in the Sun or Daily Mail. That the refrain "Chancellor dangerously isolated over Europe" is happily echoed by the Long John Silvers of the Euro-sceptical Tory right does not make life any easier. Lawson, Rowe, Hurd — eventually Thatcher herself — all recipients of the Mail's black spot, are wise to check their pension rights. Fortunately for liberal Tories, still keen on Europe and the welfare state, their hero bounces back. Clarke is not going to resign over Eastern, though he is capable of resignation. Like Denis Healey, whom he resembles, and Roy Jenkins, whom he likes (and who did resign Labour's deputy leadership over Europe in 1972), there is more to his life than politics. He has hinterland. That is the

not happen. It may or may not end in tears. But it is hard to see any British government, led by Major, Tony Blair or even Michael Portillo, being there on Day 1. If they contemplated joining on Day 2 or 102 (the British fashion in matters European), Mr Major and Malcolm Rifkind, his pragmatic Foreign Secretary (and by then his successor?) would probably legislate to abolish the long-suffering pound and submit their decision to a referendum in which collective cabinet unity would be imposed. Which means that the Portillo-Liley wing of the Cabinet, as firm in their sceptical views as Chancellor Ken, would already have resigned en bloc rather than campaign for a Yes vote. Hilarious, isn't it? So why is a battered cabinet set to grapple tomorrow with such a raddled, hypothetical scenario? Because the right — MPs Jimmy Goldsmith and press barons alike — smells an opportunity and is correct to do so. It looks at a cabinet in which the pro-Europeans are weaker than they have been since Harold Wilson's cabinet abandoned collective responsibility to campaign Yes and No in the 1975 referendum. Hurd is gone. "Haza's" past it, the rest, Gummer, Dorell, Newton, Waldegrave, Hogg, Sir George Young, lack

the clout or resolution for a knock-down fight. When the right falls in behind the leadership's compromise they will acquiesce. That leaves Ken Clarke. No one's idea of a trimmer, he was overheard in a queue last autumn saying: "I told Douglas not to resign because I knew that when he went they would start having a go at me." Hence the whispering campaign. Ken demob-happy because he knows "he's in his last job". Ken on second 10-day foreign trip (first South America, then South Africa) this year. Ken at odds with Major over the size of the public sector — should it be 39 or 35 per cent? Much of it is mischief, and even the laid-back Chancellor has occasionally been moved to make midnight protest calls to Fleet Street or denounce "soap opera stuff" in the despatch box. While Michael Portillo, after an *annus horribilis* in 1995, positions himself as a Major loyalist, Clarke-ite MPs are horrified at the very prospect of their man quitting. Surely, they say, if we win the election it will be thanks to his management of the economy. "Lots of mileage left in old Ken," they tell each other. True, but Clarke is increasingly grumpy with a party which seems to be tipping towards a more sceptical position every time he



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Dante Giacosa

Auto art for plebs

GIOVANNI Alberto Agnelli, nephew of the famous Fiat chairman Gianni, lives in a Tuscan house designed by Michelangelo and drives a car designed by another Italian of rare genius, Dante Giacosa. Like every Italian over 25, the young Agnelli and future chairman of Fiat (known as Giovanni) learnt to drive in a Fiat Cinquecento, Giacosa's masterpiece, Italy's people's car and the car which made Fiat with Andre Citroen and Ferdinand Porsche before the second world war, and also the sign of the architects of the modern European car.



The mouse that roared... Dante Giacosa with his people's car -- (top to bottom) the 1936 Zero A or Topolino, a sleeker 1949 version, and the familiar Nuova Cinquecento, in continuous production from 1957 until 1972

Giacosa, who has aged 91, was born in Rome and studied mechanical engineering at Turin's Politecnico before joining the Fabbrica Italiana Automobili Torino (Fiat) conglomerate in 1926. His first job was as a designer of liquid-cooled aero engines, but he soon turned his attention to cars when he transferred to Fiat's Futurist Lingotto plant (the one with the test track on the roof) in 1929 as chief of the technical office.

Warren, Michigan, and pronounced himself impressed with what he called a "modern Versailles", but his interpretation of the car could not have been more different from Chevrolet's: the 500 had a rear-mounted 498cc air-cooled twin in a body design that was ingenious; there were few sharp corners or exposed seams and, unusual in the 1930s, the doors were virtually one-piece pressings. Major components were bolted directly to the bodywork, the engine and gearbox being attached at only two points. Like Olivetti, the little Fiat became a symbol of Italy's ricostruzione and of the democratic modernity of Italian design.

years before he claimed 20 years before the Renault Espace, to be the very first of today's MPVs, although Fiat never took advantage of this lead. Giacosa was also responsible for the 1967 124 and the 1968 130. The latter was undoubtedly the best engineered small-medium car of its day and the former is with us still today... as the Russian Lada: when Fiat built an enormous car plant at the new town of Togliatti, named after the then chairman of the Italian Communist Party, Giacosa's rugged 124 was chosen as the vehicle most adaptable to Soviet taste and technology.

Gerald Savory

Dramatics of live television

GERALD SAVORY was a well-connected young actor in the 1930s - his parents were West End theatre names whose first play, George and Margaret, was a smash hit. A quarter of a century later, after a stint in North America, he turned from acting and dramaturgy and became prominent in British television drama at a time when productions were broadcast live and watched by millions.

The play that made Savory's name in 1937 was one of the "crazy family" comedies like Noel Coward's *Hay Fever*. Although the dialogue was neither witty nor the situation original, everything rang amusingly true, if banal. Savory's work was full of light-hearted fun and it had a realist, the spontaneous couple of its title (the long-awaited, long-dreaded guests) don't turn up until after the final curtain. By that point a then unknown actress, Irene Handl, had set the house on fire with a three-minute "spot" as an inaudible Cockney parlour maid.

Savory went to Broadway with the play when it transferred after two years to the West End but it ran for only two months. Nevertheless he stayed on as an actor and after stints on Broadway he tried Hollywood script-writing for MGM. When he snuffed at both the text of *Ninotchka* and its leading lady, Greta Garbo, Savory's engagement was ended before he could return to his office.

Later, while touring in summer stock he learnt about directing plays for the new medium, television. A then unknown actress Grace Kelly, whose father ran a television station in Chicago, led him into a new career as a television director. Returning to England in the 1950s to see one of his West End plays led to television work and, as a director or producer of new writers, Savory had to contend with or cultivate radical new authors like Dennis Potter and David Mercer. What a theatre audience tolerated was not necessarily acceptable to the mass medium of television. When Potter wanted Prince Charming to strangle Cinderella, for example, Savory suspended the broadcast. Savory also had to apologise publicly for upset-

Peter Clemeos

New life in old words

PETER Clemeos, who has died aged 76, was a quietly effective figure who transformed the field of Anglo-Saxon studies. Born in Southend-on-Sea, he was educated at Brentwood, Essex, but the second world war thwarted an early ambition to be an actor, just after he had won a place at Rada.

personal and thought-provoking study on the thought and language of Old English poetry, based on 40 years close reading in the texts: a mighty book, the impact of which is still being assessed, and will be felt for many years.

U San Yu

Tight-lipped dictator

GENERAL SAN YU, who has died aged 77, was Burma's president from 1981 to 1988 and an influential and trusted figure under General Ne Win's military dictatorship for nearly 30 years. It was in 1962 that Ne Win sent the civilian politicians packing, and San Yu became a member of the ruling revolutionary council.

authority and engineered in 1988 San Yu's dismissal. There followed the short-lived Rangoon spring and its brutal suppression.

Those who knew San Yu say he was polite and likeable. During a visit to Burma by Princess Anne, the normally reserved and tight-lipped President San Yu surprised his British guests by expressing admiration for her work for Save the Children, at a time when official policy was to exclude all foreign voluntary organisations from Burma.

After gaining his doctorate in 1956, for a ground-breaking edition of the *First Series of Old English Homilies*, a bot who had a clarity of thought and expression matched his own. Clemeos spent five years in Reading University, before being appointed to what was to become the Cambridge Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic. There he spent the rest of his professional life, becoming Elrington and Bosworth Professor of Anglo-Saxon Studies in 1982.

national Society of Anglo-Saxons, over whose second conference he presided in 1985; founding director of the Anglo-Saxon Society, a register of written sources used in Anglo-Saxon England. All these ventures continue to this day, and he withdrew from their daily running.

U San Yu, soldier and politician, born 1918; died January 28, 1996. He succeeded Ne Win as president, but Ne Win remained the ultimate authority and engineered in 1988 San Yu's dismissal.

In Memoriam

MARSHALL, J. Richard, 11/1/1915 - 24/3/1996. Always loved and very missed by Dilly, Doreen, and the grandchildren. A soldier for the rest of his life.

Jackdaw

his generation - he is in his early thirties - on both the Soviet system, and its sternest critics. This careless tossing aside of both totalitarianism and dissidence, of the "various Solzhenitsyns" along with a state of "silent menace" has become an essential posture for [writers] struggling to cope with the ruins of a universe once entirely populated by good and evil figures.

one for someone else's crimes. I would suggest a new policy. A condition for entry permits for Arabs from Judea, Samaria and Gaza would be the presentation of Jews and Arab homes would serve as security. It would not only solve the legal and moral problem, but would speed up the process when it needs to be used.

possibility to be the breeding ground for new work, but it has to come from the heart and soul of the artist. Life With An Idiot was a spontaneous work, fundamentally original, and that's what interested me.

CRASH TEST DUMMIES: Those of us who pay for unstable, not-ready-for-prime-time software marketed by greedy computer companies.

New weight

IN MON RA, a novel by Victor Pelevin published in 1992, the eponymous hero declares: "I realise at once and early on that only weightlessness can give me genuine freedom, that is why all my life I've been bored by all those Western radio voices and those books by various Solzhenitsyns. In my heart, of course, I loathed a state whose silent menace obliged every group of people who came together, even if only for a few seconds, to zealously imitate the vilest and bawdiest individual among them."

Positive equity

Wired words

Wired words

Advertisement for 'Word wise... Wired' featuring a 'BREAK BT' logo and contact information for Dan Glaister.

ICS of vision

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FinanceGuardian

Britain accuses EC of back-door protectionism as Lille summit puts 'social clause' on agenda

G7 heads for deep rift over labour rights

Larry Elliott in Lille

THE festering row among the West's leading industrial nations over linking free trade to human rights will hurt into the open today when a call by the European Commission for minimum global labour standards is set to split the Group of Seven down the middle. Pdraig Flynn, the EC Social Affairs Commissioner, will argue that free collective bargaining, free association and the abolition of child labour are fundamental rights that do not threaten competitiveness. But Britain, supported by Canada and Japan, claims that the move is an attempt to defend the high-cost economies of the West from international competition and represents "protectionism by the back door".

With Pat Buchanan's brand of protectionism finding an echo in the United States, Mr Chirac said a lack of even the most rudimentary labour standards in some developing countries encouraged industrialised nations to turn their back on free trade. This theme will be taken up by Mr Flynn today at an informal lunch to close the summit. He is expected to say that "all over the world public opinion is becoming increasingly sensitive to the question of linking trade and employment standards. This means that the issue must be faced and talked about. It simply can't be ducked or avoided." Mr Flynn will add that Europe's desire to see the matter aired was the reason it had recommended that the first ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organisation in Singapore in December should set up a working group to investigate. William Waldegrave, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said the WTO was the

wrong forum for employment practices to be discussed. "There is a great danger of protectionism coming in through the back door. We are sceptical about the use of the WTO. Some of the benefits of the WTO could immediately be undermined." Mr Chirac stressed that "harmonious development of world trade" would be vital if the West was to find a "third way" between the endemic job insecurity in North America and Europe's chronic level of unemployment. The French President added that public opinion in the West could accept that lower wages, less extensive social security and different labour laws enabled developing countries to compete successfully for export markets. But he warned that other aspects of labour markets in developing countries would not be tolerated. "Can it be accepted that fundamental rules of social democracy be so grievously stretched in this great worldwide market? Can more or less disguised forms of adult or child slavery be tolerated? The citizens of our countries are becoming better and better informed about such forms of abuse and rightly judge them to be intolerable."

Job security is safe in our hands, Shephard says

EMPLOYMENT Secretary Gillian Shephard fired the first shots yesterday in a government counter-offensive against perceptions of job insecurity. She mounted a strong defence of the UK's labour market policies over the past 17 years. Speaking at the Group of Seven jobs summit in Lille, northern France, Mrs Shephard said it was impossible to offer jobs for life but the Government was seeking to deliver "security of employability". With a year at most to go before the next election, the Government is increasingly

concerned about the threat to consumer confidence posed by job insecurity. Labour has taken up the theme as a key part of its campaign strategy, believing it will check the return of the "feelgood factor". Mrs Shephard admitted that the transformation to a more flexible labour market in Britain had involved "a lot of pain" but added that the rest of continental Europe was now starting to follow suit. She said there was no statistical evidence to support the notion that jobs had become less secure in recent years. The average time spent in a job was 5.2 years the same as 10 years ago —

while 86 per cent of part-time workers did not want to work full-time. Britain had only half France's number of people on short-term contracts. Mrs Shephard conceded there was a "perception" that insecurity was on the increase. "What has to be grasped is that there is this feeling within people, and we are dealing with that by our education and training reforms." Ministers at the jobs summit — the follow-up to a gathering in Detroit two years ago — are looking for ways to reduce the total of 22 million jobless people in the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and Canada.



Depth charge... Energy minister Tim Eggar (front, centre) was given an inside view of a six-mile tunnel bearing London Electricity's new £22 million circuit for south-west London, before it was commissioned yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH BY HAMILTON WEST

Notebook A tighter tap on the water firms



Edited by Alex Brummer

NOW that the outrage over remuneration in the electricity utilities has passed, at least temporarily, the water companies look extraordinarily exposed. Yorkshire has already heaped opprobrium and ridicule on the whole industry; the Thames chief executive has paid with his job for the hubris of expanding into the deregulated sector of the market; and the regulator, Ian Byatt, can barely disguise his irritation at the industry's failure to respond to his own proposals last summer to introduce a degree of competition into the industry. Now Mr Byatt has the Government firmly on his side. Under the new scheme, industrial firms will have the freedom to buy from the cheapest water source, presumably in the hope of ratcheting down prices. But this may be more difficult in the water industry than in gas or electricity, since there is no national grid in water and the cost of moving water long distances is prohibitive. Nevertheless, there is the possibility that greater competition could improve domestic access to water in times of shortage and eventually bring down prices. However, if any of this is to work Mr Byatt will need to come down hard on his charges. It is unacceptable that they have been so slow in responding to competition demands and have wasted management resources on expansion into deregulated markets, when they have failed to make a decent fist of their own role in the regulated market. But Labour, which complains loudly, has a problem: it once threatened to take the water companies back into public ownership. Having shrunk from that option, its complaints will carry much less clout.

and understate recovery. Nevertheless, the pain is acute. It may be that it is even more sharply felt because it is unevenly distributed. Expensive consumer goods shops and showrooms across the old Soviet bloc bear witness to the fact that some have profited mightily, if not always honestly, from the changes. But pensioners, who have seen their real incomes soar beyond their income, are unlikely to care much about the efficient allocation of resources. Indeed, the region's voters are showing signs of disillusion. Poland, Hungary and Bulgaria, for example have elected former Communists back into power. The economic figures may be improving, but the feel-good factor has yet to emerge. And this summer it is Russia's turn to go to the polls.

Humpty Dumpty

IT SEEMS incredible that after one of the longest and most complex anti-trust cases in US business history, resulting in the break-up of the old AT&T into a series of regional Bell companies in 1984, Humpty Dumpty is being put back together again. The merger between SBC Communications of Texas and Pacific Telesis of California may only be worth a mere \$11 billion (against the \$28 billion BT/Cable & Wireless proposal), but it heralds a new phase in the US telecommunications industry. The new telecoms bill, steered through Congress by Vice-President Al Gore, was designed to free telecom, cable and other networks from the regulations which might prevent the United States from building an information superhighway, led by Hollywood's entertainment software industry, which would lead the world. The combined Texas and Californian group, to be known from now on as SBC Communications, will have its headquarters in San Antonio and provide long-distance, internet and international services from San Francisco. The deal leaves open the possibility that SBC will choose to grow further or could be sucked into the new demerged AT&T — currently breaking itself down into three separate companies, telecoms, computers and telephone hardware — as the US telecoms industry reforms for the communications age. Although the united baby bells will, for now, not be strong competition for the real giants of international telecommunications such as BT and Japan's NTT, they will be monitoring events carefully. AT&T is thought to have designs upon the UK Mercury network, which the competition authorities certainly will want to see demerged from BT/C&W. Given the potential size of an agglomeration of AT&T and the former baby bells, BT may be right to be looking for a European buyer for Mercury, rather than letting the American eagle into its sphere of influence.

Income blocs

THE European Bank for Reconstruction and Development is modestly upbeat in its latest assessment of the progress being made by the former Soviet bloc countries, from central planning to market-based economies. But it is clear that the process is entering a difficult, perhaps crucial, phase. Five years on, not one country in eastern and central Europe and what was the Soviet Union has seen output recover to pre-1990 levels. Only two are expected to do so within the next two years. Indeed, according to the raw data, many are in much worse shape than before. The EBRD is rightly careful to note that the official figures may overstate decline.

Banks shy from nuclear sell-off

Simon Beavis
Industrial Editor

THE Government faces an uphill struggle in assembling a syndicate of banks to handle its £2.6 billion nuclear privatisation, amid growing signs that lending City players are uneasy about optimistic forecasts for the industry. Banks wishing to be global co-ordinators have until April 10 to apply to the Government and a shortlist is likely to be selected the following week. But worries are emerging in the City about the forecasts drawn up by the Government's own advisers, Barclays de Zoete Wedd. There is particular concern over predictions that the industry can improve the performance of the seven advanced gas-cooled reactors being sold alongside the Sizewell B pressurised water reactor in Suffolk. BZW is assuming the reactors will achieve output levels of 82.5 per cent, way ahead of the industry average of nearer 70 per cent. There are also fears that BZW's assumptions on future wholesale electricity prices in the so-called "base" market are too generous. The bank predicts prices will remain at 2.4p a kilowatt hour, although City experts are convinced they could collapse. The two issues are key to the valuation of British Energy, the company formed by the Government to own the

reactors after the sell-off in July. BZW has hinted that, based on its assumptions, the value of the industry would be £2.4 billion-£2.6 billion. But the City disputes this. One source said there was a growing view that the reactors were "at the top". Another said the valuations were "absurd" and "wildly optimistic". Gordon MacKerron, a leading independent expert on nuclear economics, has argued that output levels from the reactors would imply a valuation of nearer £1 billion. He estimates the industry could have zero value if output slipped back towards 65 per cent. Unusually, the Government hinted at two in its White Paper on nuclear power. That indicated the sell-off would produce at least £2.6 billion.

Factory freeze stokes recession fear

Sarah Ryle

FEARS that Britain's manufacturing industry is heading for recession were strengthened last night as a survey of producers showed that the factory sector had been stagnant for the last seven months. Despite improving demand for consumer goods, the monthly Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply survey for March made clear that the poor performance of other sectors had put downward pressure on the manufacturing economy. The outcome of the survey, which gives a snapshot of factory activity, was a third consecutive fall in the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI). The headline rate was below 50 per cent for the second month, indicating contraction. Adam Cole, an economist at HSBC James Capel, said: "The overall PMI suggested that the factory sector could fall in the first quarter of this year. This would be the second successive quarterly fall, leaving the sector officially back in recession." Manufacturers were still struggling with steep overhangs, CIPS said, which led to price slashing and deliberate restraint on output. Factory-gate prices

registered their biggest fall since the survey began in July 1991, and output fell to its lowest level since October 1992. Despite the cuts in production, stocks rose in 30 per cent of companies, reflecting weak domestic and foreign demand. Firms laid off workers for the third month in a row. But City analysts said the weakness of the March survey would not push the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Kenneth Clarke, into cutting interest rates after tomorrow's monthly meeting with the Governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George. CIPS said improved demand for consumer goods meant that some sectors within manufacturing were registering growth, thereby creating a "two-tiered manufacturing economy". Separate data from the Bank of England showed continued if slightly slower growth of notes and coins in the system during March, providing new evidence that high-street spending was healthy. Although the Chancellor and the Governor were expected to take note of the PMI, the consensus view among City analysts was that there would be no base rate reduction before May.

The move came the same day as Ian Lang, the UK Trade and Industry Secretary, warned that the expected £36 billion merger between British Telecom and Cable & Wireless would have to be cleared by a number of authorities, including the Office of Fair Trading and the European Commission. Mr Lang denied he had already agreed in principle to the deal. But a department spokeswoman said it was not unusual for companies to have informal discussions with officials who would advise about what was required. Advisers to the two UK telecom groups are still seeking to clear obstacles to the merger, including how to

compete with each other. Telephone companies, broadcasters and cable operators are now free to enter each other's markets. The Baby Bells can expect a furious assault from their more efficient long-distance rivals — AT&T, Spring and MCI (BT's US partner). Two other regional telephone companies, Bell Atlantic and Nynex on the East coast, have discussed a merger but disagreed on price. Pacific Telesis and SBC serve the two largest states, California and Texas. The merged company will have more than 100,000 employees, operating cash flow of \$9 billion (£5.8 billion) and income of almost \$3 billion.

Eight Standard directors share £13m paper profit

Patrick Donagan
City Editor

Directors at Standard Chartered are sitting on share option packages with a "paper profit" of more than £13.6 million, according to figures disclosed in the bank's annual report. The value of their rolling incentive scheme was boosted by the award of additional options worth nearly £2 million over the past 12 months — a period which has seen Standard's share price soar on take-over speculation. The bank's shares yesterday climbed another 12p to 621p, compared with a year's low of 545p. The directors have accumulated shares worth a further £2.16 million under a "restricted share scheme". Directors are barred, however, from selling any of their entitlement from either scheme for at least three years after the allotment is granted. The report shows pension contributions made for executive directors rose from £452,000 to £895,843 over the full-year period. Most of the increase is understood to have come from additional payments made for an overseas director asked to stay on after the normal expatriate retirement age of 55. Overall pay and cash bonuses for the board increased from £3.48 million to £4.11 million over the past 12 months. Group chief executive Malcolm Williamson saw his salary rise by £48,000 to £273,000. Chairman Patrick Gillam's remuneration increased by £87,000 to £294,000.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SETS

Australia 1.8950	France 7.43	Italy 2.345	Singapore 2.10
Austria 15.25	Germany 2.20	Japan 8.54	South Africa 5.88
Belgium 46.00	Greece 352.00	Netherlands 2.4675	Spain 183.75
Canada 2.01	Hong Kong 11.58	New Zealand 2.18	Sweden 10.07
Cyprus 0.8850	India 52.02	Norway 3.26	Switzerland 1.70
Denmark 8.46	Ireland 0.8550	Portugal 227.25	Turkey 5.90
Finland 7.01	Israel 4.76	Saudi Arabia 5.66	USA 1.49

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

BCCI victims win a point against Bank

Dan Atkinson

An unprecedented half-billion pound lawsuit against the Bank of England can go ahead — but only if lawyers persuade a High Court judge of their case at a hearing expected on April 26. Barristers acting for depositors in the Bank of Commerce and Credit International will need to show Bank officers were to blame for the losses.

Yesterday, Mr Justice Clarke held that the ancient legal injury of "misfeasance in public office" could generally be held against the Bank — victory for the depositors. But he provisionally rejected the argument that the Bank could be held liable in the BCCI case.

Were it possible to show the depositors' losses were capable of being caused in law by the alleged misfeasance, then he would reverse this decision. At the April 26 hearing, the depositors will try to persuade him.

Loitche & Touche in May 1983 on behalf of 6,000 UK depositors believed to have lost \$566 million. It alleges that the Bank should not have given BCCI its original 1979 licence and that, having done so, it ought to have taken action earlier. It further alleges the Bank ought to have established "consolidated supervision" of BCCI in concert with other regulators. BCCI was not officially based in Britain, but ran key treasury operations from London.

Mr Justice Clarke, at yesterday's pre-trial hearing, said that, if the case were to go ahead, it had to clear three hurdles: was the Bank liable for misfeasance? were the losses caused in law by the Bank's wrongdoing? and were all BCCI depositors entitled to claim?

His judgment was no to the first point, but added: "If my answer to [question two]... were yes, my answer to this question would also be yes." On question two, he gave a provisional no, but said further submission would be heard. He ruled yes to question three, in principle.

The liquidators are believed to be confident of changing his mind. The Bank of England said it was pleased with yesterday's provisional judgment.



Smoked out... customs officers at Dover discover cigarettes hidden beneath beer cartons. They have the power to seize both the contents and the vehicle. PHOTOGRAPHS: GARRY WEASER

Bootleggers take a kicking



However liberal the rest of Europe may be, alcohol and tobacco entering British ports must be for personal use to avoid VAT. And 800 pints of lager does seem a little over the top. In the latest of our series, SARAH RYLE visits Dover docks

WAITING on a cold morning for cross-Channel passengers to disembark to the anti-bootlegging team at Dover's Eastern Docks was convinced there would be enough seizures of beer and tobacco to keep the office paperwork stacked high.

"Bootleggers don't mind the cold," said one Customs & Excise official. "There is no off-peak season for them. In fact, they can travel more often now because the ferries are simpler and the trips are much cheaper. With the deals on at the moment, you can get across to Calais for £1."

Within minutes of the ferry doors opening, the first three vans fitting the bootleg profile ("almost all white Transits, you look for a low axle load") were pulled over and searched.

The object of the drama played hourly at Dover and other British ports is to convince the Excise Verification Officers (EVOs) that the boot-

van was taken too, although the customs officers had difficulty driving it to the pound because the key had broken off in the ignition and the motor had to be started with a string.

Shortly afterwards, an EVO was summoned to the foot-passenger terminal by anti-drugs colleagues. A young lad who fitted the Customs & Excise profile for cannabis smugglers had been pulled over with two large holdalls containing 13.7kg (30lb) of hand-rolling tobacco. He had a receipt for £2,000 and the duty on each kilo was about £87 — if he couldn't pay, the tobacco would be seized. He had been stopped before.

Officials said he was typical of the army of "donkeys" who operate in gangs for bosses around the country. For £30 cash in hand and the fare, a young, unemployed lad will cross to Calais to do the buying.

The donkeys put up in bed-and-breakfasts in Dover, officials said, and fill vans bound for all parts of Britain in the small hours of the morning. They come from areas where unemployment is high and expectations low.

"They tell tall stories about acts of fantastic generosity. A couple of thousand pounds' worth of tobacco was for friends, according to one regular traveller from the North-east. The capital outlay had come from savings.

Dover's assistant collector, Bill Keen, said that if the bootleggers were to be believed, Britain's social fabric

Strong at 9 per cent volume. Even if the three men, local lads from Romney Marsh, had been able to get their story straight and persuade the officials that they were splitting the 1,820 litres of booze three ways, which they failed to do, they were looking to get through nearly 800 pints each. Personal use?

The whole lot was seized, causing an ugly scene. The

bring any amount of drink or tobacco across the Channel. There have been no restrictions within the European Union since April 1993.

But Parliament has limited the volume here to personal use. Mr Keen stressed that his staff were not there to enforce limits. They are there to ensure that VAT is paid on everything that the British government has deemed it should be paid on.

Customs & Excise headquarters in London was anxious to keep the problem in perspective. In the year to November 1995, bootlegging accounted for VAT revenue worth nearly £11 million compared to a total take from betting, gaming and the national lottery in the last financial year of more than £1,200 million.

But the most recent annual report from HM Customs & Excise showed that while net receipts from all tobacco products had not declined in 1994/95, those from hand-rolling tobacco and other smoking/chewing tobacco had.

Tobacco seizures at the Eastern Docks that day were all of hand-rolling tobacco — none of cigarettes.

The growth of the problem is such that while the rest of customs is paring down staff (from about 24,500 to about 23,000), the 33 EVOs at Dover are expected to be joined by another 10 colleagues.

A target was set last year of 2,300 seizures from April 1, 1995 to March 31, 1996. That target, the officers say, has already been surpassed.



Steve Clement of Customs & Excise with seized booty

had never been stronger — what with all the presents and surprise parties being given, not to mention the increase in weddings.

In three hours at the Eastern Docks there were seven seizures. But greater manpower would have boosted the tally. Even as his fellow officers searched three vans, another could only watch more likely bootleggers roll past.

If the UK Parliament had not laid down constraints, it would be perfectly legal to

Eastern bloc is recovering, says European bank

Mark Milner
European Business Editor

ECONOMIC output in central and eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union is still lagging behind pre-1990 levels, according to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

But this year should see Poland become the first country where post-Communist output surpasses that recorded under the former centrally planned system, and Slovenia is expected to follow suit during 1997.

According to EBRD, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia are among those countries where recovery has brought output within halving distance of pre-1990 levels.

Output in several countries has slumped dramatically, however, with Georgia's economy producing just 17 per cent of its 1989 level. Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and the Ukraine

have output levels running at less than 40 per cent of the 1989 figure.

In its latest transition report, published yesterday, the EBRD — which was set up to help former Communist countries to switch to market-based economies — acknowledges that official figures may paint too bleak a picture.

"It is widely recognised that official GDP (gross domestic product) figures for many countries overstate the output decline that took place in the early years of systemic transition and understate the subsequent recovery."

The EBRD is generally upbeat about the transition process. "The last year saw strong economic growth in eastern Europe and the Baltics and a slowdown of the pace of output decline in the Commonwealth of Independent States," it said.

"There is a good chance that the region is now looking forward to a period of sustained growth and moderate inflation."

EU shopping guide

Guidance levels on goods bought in the EU for personal use

Cigarettes	800
Cigarillos	400
Cigars	200
Smoking tobacco	1kg
Spirits	90 litres
Fortified wine	20 litres
Beer	90 litres
Wine	110 litres

Not more than 60 litres of the can be sparkling wine. Source: HM Customs & Excise

Burmah Castrol finds Asia full of liquid gold

Outlook

Chris Barrie

BURMAH Castrol, renowned for its association with Dennis Thatcher and speciality oils for cars usually painted in British Racing Green, indicated yesterday that its future lay in Asian markets.

Announcing a 15 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £253 million on turnover of £3.04 billion, chief executive Jonathan Fry said business in the Asia-Pacific region had gone well. "The economies are bursting with growth."

Hong Kong companies may be considering the implications of the Chinese taking control in 1997, but Burmah Castrol is going flat out to win a 10-15 per cent stake of the Chinese lubricants market.

Step one was to send a team of managers to Hong Kong to set up a regional headquarters, a move that cost Burmah Castrol a hefty increase in managerial overheads. As Mr Fry noted, Hong Kong is more expensive than Wilshire.

Step two was to call a managerial meeting in Beijing. Some 150 managers spent a week considering group strategy at a cost to central overheads of £1.5 million.

Burmah was at one time as quintessentially English as Rolls-Royce, with which it shared the dubious distinction of being bailed out by the government in the 1970s.

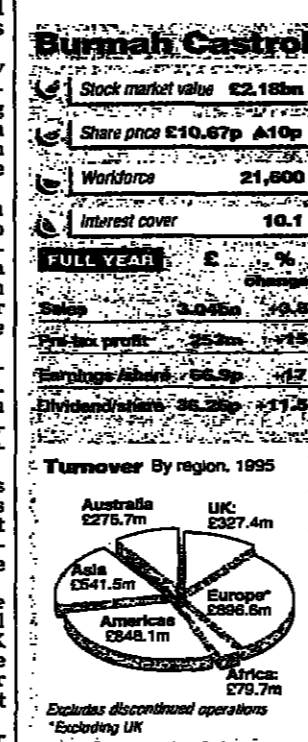
The company now has more than 18 per cent of its total sales in Asia, while the UK accounts for 11 per cent. The rest of Europe provides 30 per cent, and the Americas just over 28 per cent.

Mr Fry's enthusiasm for

Asia is partly due to demand for lubricants: there is nothing like higher volumes for boosting profits, he says. Last year saw the lubricants business turn in a 20 per cent increase in volumes to £460 million, and a 14 per cent rise in profits to £70.5 million. Earnings would have been higher but for the group's hefty investment in the region.

If Mr Fry has his way, sales of lubricants in Asia should overtake Europe's next year.

Shares in the group rose 10p to £10.67 as the City digested the better-than-expected results and the bullish forecasts for Asia-Pacific.



But even while contemplating a 17 per cent increase in earnings per share before exceptional, some City commentators were focusing on the board's warning of "subdued market conditions" in the developed markets of Europe and North America.

Although chairman Lawrence Urquhart promised "further satisfactory progress" in the Castrol lubricants business — with sales of £1.9 billion, the cornerstone of Europe and North America.

Dove's assistant collector, Bill Keen, said that if the bootleggers were to be believed, Britain's social fabric

News in brief

Mitsubishi invests £131m in Apricot

PRODUCTION of Apricot computers at Glenrothes, near Edinburgh, will increase over the next five years. This year the workforce from 300 to 600. In a £131 million investment by Japanese group Mitsubishi. This will also create a further 100 jobs at the company's research and development centre in Birmingham.

Tatsuya Mutoh, general manager of Mitsubishi's information and communications systems group, which bought Apricot in 1990, said the investment would ensure that the company entered the next century as a market leader in personal computer systems.

The factory at Glenrothes will increase production of computers to 500,000 a year as part of plans to raise worldwide output by 400 per cent to an annual 1 million. Apricot is the 12th-biggest seller of computers in the UK, accounting for around 3 per cent of market share. About 80 per cent of the company's sales are in Britain, the majority to business users. — Press Association

House prices creep up

HOUSE prices are slowly recovering, according to latest figures from the Halifax. Prices in March increased by 1.2 per cent. The figures show the average UK price at £83,210, 1.7 percentage points higher than the same month last year. The average price paid by first-time buyers is £43,131, up 0.2 of a point on last year. The latest increase builds upon last month's figures, which showed the first annual change in more than a year. — Cliff Jones

Peace profits Ulster TV

ULSTER TV's share of the "peace dividend" helped push up advertising revenue and profits in 1995. This year might not be so easy, John McGuckian, the chairman, warned. "Competitive pressures for both viewers and revenue will increase in 1996 with the arrival of cable and the setting up of Channel 5 in the UK for launch in early 1997. But the arrival in Northern Ireland this year of several major British food retailers will act as a stimulus for further promotional expenditure.

Advertising revenue in 1995 rose from £29.9 million to £32.8 million, helping the group increase its profits by 9.5 per cent to £3.2 million. Ulster had the highest viewing share in ITV, at 42 per cent, for the third year in a row. — Tony May

Tesco dovetails with B&Q

TESCO has extended the use of its Clubcard loyalty scheme to do-it-yourself retailer B&Q. Tesco shoppers will be able to amass Clubcard points on their purchases at B&Q Supercentres (but not Warehouse outlets) as well as their supermarket shopping. The resulting vouchers and discounts, awarded quarterly, will be cashable only in Tesco stores.

A spokeswoman for Tesco said the scheme followed a joint promotion with the travel agent Lunn Poly which gave shoppers Clubcard points on Thomson holiday purchases. — Roger Cowe

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Motor Racing

Hill hailed by the chief

Alan Henry sees solid foundations laid in Sao Paulo

DAMON HILL has won the approval of Renault after his commanding victory in the rainy Brazilian Grand Prix at Interlagos on Sunday...

of their main rivals over the past couple of seasons. "I wanted to dominate this weekend if I could, and I think I managed it," said Hill with obvious satisfaction...

My engineer and Adrian Newey, who designed the Williams FW18, worked very well to provide me with the equipment which was going to give me the best opportunity to get the most out of the situation. Everything came together perfectly.

However, as Hill surveys his prospects for the rest of the season - and notably the coming weekend's Argentine Grand Prix, which he won last year - he knows that although he holds a healthy 14-point lead on his nearest rivals...

Moreover, he is aware that Sunday's race showed how much thrusting young talent is currently bubbling up through the grand prix ranks. Formerly performance from Jos Verstappen (Footwork) and Mika Salo (Tyrrell)...

I was very impressed with Damon Hill, from beginning to end with a skilful and wise drive," said the Renault chairman Louis Schweitzer. "He showed today he has the qualities to be a world champion."

Schweitzer was visiting Brazil to lay the foundations of a car factory. Engine supplier to Williams since 1989, Renault is confident that Hill, on maximum points after two races, will deliver the company's third world drivers' championship in five seasons.

But Sunday's success was not simply about Hill's newfound confidence and control. It also reflected the effort that has gone into sharpening up the Williams team's race strategy and pit-stop discipline, elements which have perhaps lacked the razor edge



Measuring up... Oxford's cox Kristof, 5ft 11in, needed help to stay level with the Cambridge No. 5 Ayer at 6ft 8 3/4in TOM JENKINS

Cambridge scale new heights

Christopher Dodd

CAMBRIDGE are 2-1 on favourites with William Hill for Saturday's Boat Race. The message is straightforward. No body else was chasing so much as a shirt cuff as the crews weighed in yesterday.

quickness at the beginning of the stroke, has given him problems fitting into the Cambridge system, which emphasises the middle and end of the stroke. But such problems have been behind the Light Blues since Christmas. They have spent last week at the National Water Sports Centre in Nottingham sharpening up their act.

running. Oxford, in their second year under the coaching team of Penny Chuter and Daniel Topolski, are much better than last year, a crew of racers including four Americans, one Blue (the president Rob Clegg), plus the British international Damian West and the former junior international Adam Frost.

1980s dwarf Hart Massey. Kristof is 5ft 11in "with my hair on end" and, at 7st 7 1/2lb, half a stone lighter than Cambridge's Kevin Whyman.

Nottingham runners and riders with form

Table listing race results for Nottingham, including race numbers, names of horses/riders, and their finishing positions.

Folkstone (N.H.)

Table listing race results for Folkstone, including race numbers, names of horses/riders, and their finishing positions.

Wolverhampton (A.W.)

Table listing race results for Wolverhampton, including race numbers, names of horses/riders, and their finishing positions.

Results

Table listing race results for various locations, including race numbers, names of horses/riders, and their finishing positions.

David Bridgwater, second in Saturday's Grand National and still needing one more success for his first century of winners...

David Bridgwater, second in Saturday's Grand National and still needing one more success for his first century of winners, was banned for five days at Exeter yesterday for excessive use of the whip on Habasha, runner-up in the Exminster Selling Hurdle.

Simon Crisford, racing manager to Godolphin, said of Mark de Souza: "It's questionable whether he will stay a mile and a half and we're hopeful rather than confident."

Simon Crisford, racing manager to Godolphin, said of Mark de Souza: "It's questionable whether he will stay a mile and a half and we're hopeful rather than confident." Mick's Love, now another Godolphin colt, won both his races as a two-year-old when trained by Mark Johnston and is rated 25-1 for the Derby. He is big, lengthy sort by Law Society out of a Luthier mare and has good prospects of staying middle-distances.

Advertisement for RACELINE, featuring a phone number (0930 1684) and a list of race results for Nottingham and Wolverhampton.

Soccer

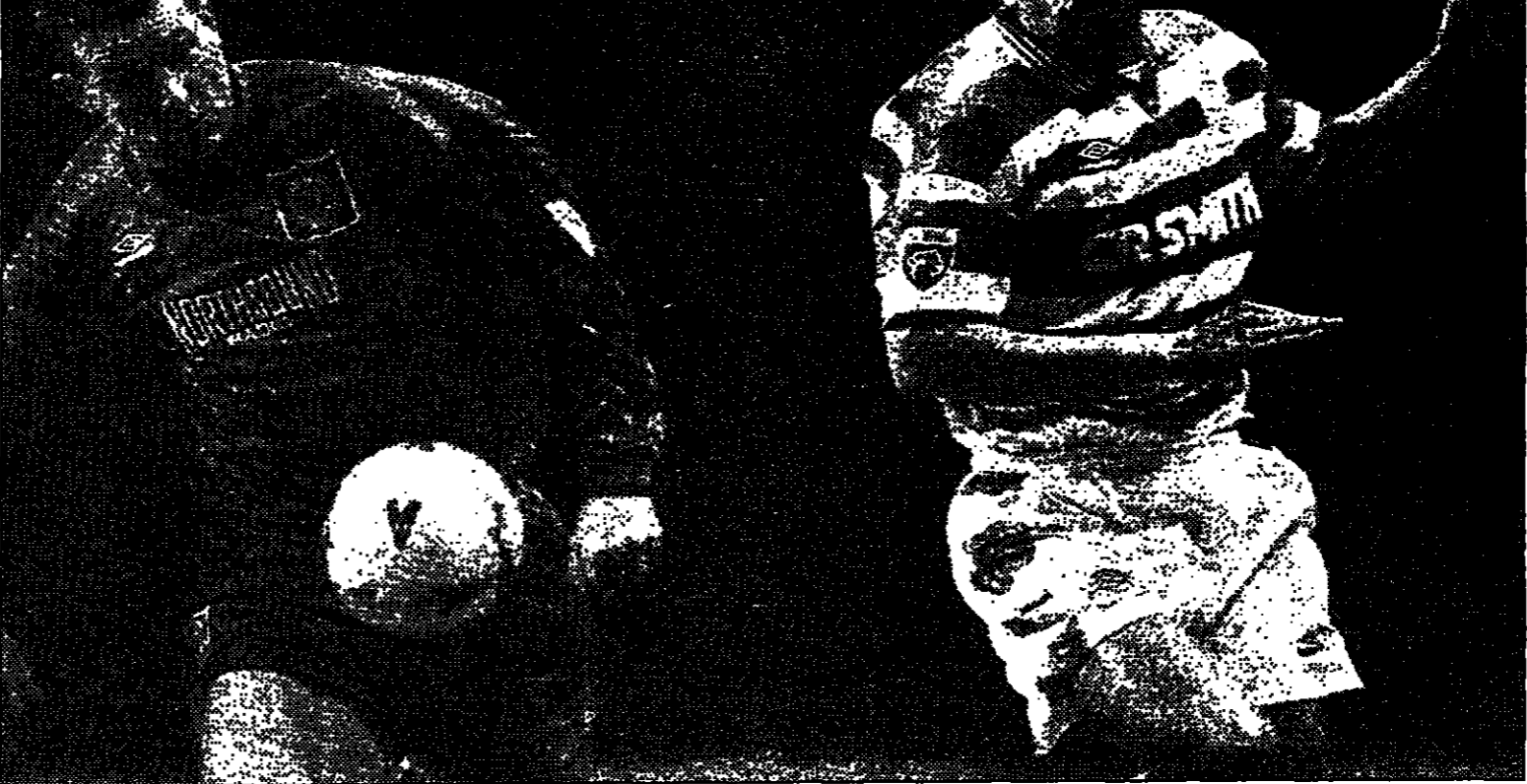
Ticket profiteers punished by FA

Don Best

THE Football Association has imposed its most severe penalties so far on players, officials and supporters whose Cup final tickets last year were sold for up to 35 times their true value...

Manchester City, preparing for Saturday's Maine Road derby against United, have been told that the full-back Scott Hiley will miss the rest of the season after breaking a bone in his foot...

with Holland back there on June 13 when they face Switzerland. Scotland return on June 18, three days after meeting England...



Dancing attention... Van Hooydonk goes through the motions alongside Grant, of Aberdeen, at Parkhead last night

Wilkinson blast for Brolin

Ian Ross

THE gulf between the Leeds manager Howard Wilkinson and his club's costliest acquisition, Tomas Brolin, appeared to widen yesterday...

"It would be more productive for everyone if he was to stop talking about leaving," said Wilkinson. "I have told him he should be concentrating on the present rather than the future..."

summer departure for a player earning around £15,000 a week at Elland Road. He is already being linked with a return to the Italian club...

Rampaging Celtic take no prisoners

Patrick Glenn

JORGE CADETE, with the sweetest of chips, scored his first goal for Celtic three minutes after replacing Thom during an exhilarating performance by the Parkhead club...

flying response. They scored twice in the first 18 minutes. Aberdeen, having lost the three previous league meetings this season, were looking at a whitewash after only two minutes, when Donnelly scored the first...

Celtic's collective versatility, their ability to interchange at will, was the main problem for Aberdeen. The raids were quick and varied, although the move which brought the second goal was without complication...

committed — perhaps a hint of saving themselves for Saturday's Scottish Cup semi-final with Hearts. Celtic were unrelenting in their pursuit of further goals...

McKay, Van Hooydonk, Thom, Grant, Aberdeen's Watt, Grant, Woodthorpe, Bernard, Irvine, Smith, Miller, Wendaas, Scott, Coates, Glass, Refsum, H. Dallas (Motherwell)

Square ball to Square Mile — the way of reckoning

John Duncan and Paul Murphy examine the flotation issue and find four more clubs who may follow Chelsea to the market

THERE was a silent revolution in football yesterday. As Chelsea started trading nine million shares, with a major public flotation to follow...

tion could create an elite within an elite," said a senior executive of one major Premier League club yesterday. "It could mean that a few of the larger clubs, maybe five or six, could realistically gain access to the sort of money it is now possible to raise in this manner..."

image of football in the Square Mile. "In stock market terms it is under-rated," said one top City analyst yesterday. "If Harlequins was on the market the City would send its shares to the moon..."

investing in football clubs, says: "It can be very difficult to get hard information. Trying to put together a financial profile of the top clubs, which involved asking them for their reports and accounts — public documents — we almost gave up on the likes of Everton and Manchester City..."

week, however, was not so much about raising vast amounts of money. The nine million shares being traded yesterday belonged to an unnamed shareholder who wanted to sell, and all the money raised will go to him...

money beyond existing shareholders. "What influenced us was the fact that we have found someone who will underwrite our issue to the tune of £2.5 million, so we are guaranteed to raise that," said a club director, Barry Hurst...

Chelsea's shares rose 5p to 60p yesterday, a 10 per cent increase. "Fans wanting a punt," said dealers. "Good but not dramatic. That may change soon enough."

Ruddock fear for final place

NEIL RUDDOCK'S place in the Liverpool side to meet Manchester United in the FA Cup final next month is already under threat, writes Ian Ross. The England defender has been suspended for two games, after his booking against Nottingham Forest 10 days ago took him through the 33 disciplinary points barrier...

Sport in brief

Baseball: The Major Leagues' earliest start to a season this century ran into white-out problems yesterday in Cleveland, where the Indians' game against the New York Yankees was snowed off.

Boxing: Wales's former WBO European flyweight champion Robbie Regan will step up in weight to challenge Daniel Jimenez of Puerto Rico for the WBO bantamweight title in Cardiff on April 26.

Hockey: The Great Britain women's Olympic training squad has been called to the final 20, with Tina Cullen, Kath Johnson, Jo Mould and the Scotland goalkeeper Tracey Robb added to the 16 who played in the Olympic qualifying tournament.

Chess: VEB GRANDMASTERS (Amsterdam): Round 11: J. Tjanman (Neth) 0, V. Selivanov (Ukr) 1; J. Tjanman (Neth) 0, N. Short (Eng) 1; V. Krumpholtz (Den) 0, V. Anand (Ind) 1; J. Lautner (Aust) 0, G. Kampoury (Gre) 1; K. B. Geisler (Den) 0, V. Topolov (Ukr) 1; G. Karpov (Rus) 0, V. Anand (Ind) 1.

Cricket: SHEFFIELD SHIELD (Adelaide): Third day: Western Australia 320-8 (Nesbitt 100, West 89, Hogg 81), South Australia 230-7 (P. Hoos 104, Sneyd 74).

Snooker: BRITISH OPEN (Plymouth): Final: Ronnie O'Sullivan (Eng) 5-3, Stephen Hendry (Sco) 3-5.

Pool: BRITISH OPEN (Plymouth): Final: Ronnie O'Sullivan (Eng) 5-3, Stephen Hendry (Sco) 3-5.

Teamtalk: The Independent News and Reports Service. Call 0891 33 77+. A list of sports news items for various clubs and events.

Table with columns for various sports events, including Soccer, Basketball, Chess, Cricket, Hockey, and Snooker, listing participants and scores.

Table with columns for various sports events, including Pool, Snooker, and Chess, listing participants and scores.

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Rugby Union

Welshmen lured by English clubs

Robert Armstrong

TWO leading players from Wales are the target of English clubs. Bath have offered a contract to Garin Jenkins, Swansea's international hooker, while the Cardiff and former Wales fly-half Adrian Davies will decide whether to accept a six-figure offer from Richmond.

Members of the senior Wales squad, Twickenham wants to abandon the rule, which applies to players who switch to clubs in another country and prevents them from playing until after the waiting period. The WRU will discuss the rule on Thursday. The issue came to a head last month when Harlequins announced they had signed the Neath and Wales lock Gareth Llewellyn.

speeded up its game, concentrating on rucking rather than mauling.

"I do not think there is much of a future for me at Cardiff if we continue to play a mauling game. I want to give it everything I have next season. I hope it is with Cardiff, but we have to speed our game up," said Davies, who cost the club £70,000.

"Welsh rugby has to learn from rugby league because we are in the entertainment age now. It is all about putting backsides on seats, and the two most successful clubs in Wales this season, Neath and Pontypridd, both play a fast, rucking game and regard the position of the open-side flanker as a significant one."

Davies has played only two competitive matches for Cardiff at fly-half. His other appearances have been at full-back and centre but he wants to concentrate on his favoured position.

The 28-year-old Garin Jenkins yesterday admitted he was thinking seriously of joining an English club after six seasons with Swansea. The former coal-miner also received an offer last month from Leeds, the League Four club whose director of rugby is Phil Davies, Jenkins's former international team-mate.

"I have received approaches before but the chances of a move this time are stronger than ever," said Jenkins. "Swansea are a great club and I have enjoyed myself immensely but maybe it is time for a fresh challenge."

Will Carling, the former England captain, will most certainly see out his playing career with Harlequins, his club since 1987, after turning down an offer from Leicester. "It was flattering to be asked to join Leicester but I've decided to stay with Quins, who played by me during what was at times a difficult season," he said.

Scottish lock banned for record 19 months after cup violence

DAVID MCKENDRICK, the Biggar lock, yesterday received a 19-month ban, the most severe suspension ever meted out by the Scottish Rugby Union.

The centre Walter Little has been suspended for two Super 12 matches by the New Zealand Rugby Football Union after becoming the first All Black to fall a drugs test.

He was sent off, along with Ayr's Kenny Nicol, by the international referee Chuck Muir during Biggar's 14-6 Tennents Cup victory over Ayr in February.

The banned substance, propoxyphene, which is not considered performance-enhancing, was found in a recent blood sample taken from Little, who said the substance was in a painkilling tablet he had taken for a sore tooth.

Rugby League

Hopes rise on Clarke

Paul Fitzpatrick

P HIL CLARKE'S neck injury is not as serious as first thought and there is hope that he will play again, though not this season.

24-year-old Great Britain and former Wigan forward, who cracked his fourth vertebra in three places when playing against North Queensland in Townsville at the weekend.

Attendants at the European Super League's first six fixtures were the best season-opening crowd since two-dixie football returned in 1973. Total attendance was 54,054, an average of 9,009.

Cricket

Waqar glad to see the back of Lamb

W AQAQ YOUNIS, the Pakistan pace bowler, yesterday applauded the reluctant retirement of Allan Lamb, the former England batsman whose accusations of ball-tampering by the Pakistan sours relations between the sides.

Snooker

Morgan has no time to celebrate

Gilve Everton

D ARREN MORGAN'S elation at winning his first major title, the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters just after midnight on Sunday, was tempered by having to wake up before seven o'clock the next morning.

Ice Hockey

Guildford opt-out fans the flames

Vic Batchelder

D OUBTS continue to haunt plans for the introduction of the new Superleague next September, with confirmation that the Guildford Flames, one of its founder members, will not take part.

Waqar and Wasim Akram were the main targets of Lamb's accusations after the five-match series in which Waqar took 22 wickets and Wasim 21.

The 29-year-old Welshman's 8-3 victory over Steve Davis for the £70,000 prize for the Irish Masters followed three other arduous wins, 6-4 over Alan McManus and 6-5 over both Peter Ebdon and Joe Swail. But, as an invitation event, the Irish Masters has no ranking points.

Meredit said these entail the present British League continuing, but being run by the member clubs, alongside the British National Ice Hockey League, the other new competition planned for next season, to which the Flames will now apply to join.

"I am glad that Lamb is out so that we can be seen with more peace," said Waqar in Singapore, where he is playing in the Singer Cup. "He always wants to create controversy."

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Pakistan's manager Intikhab Alam said he regretted Lamb's accusation and the timing of his autobiography, which will hit the bookshelves when Pakistan tour England for a three-Test series this year. "If he is doing these things to sell the book it is very unfortunate," Intikhab said.

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"He wants to recreate the controversy so that he can sell his book," added Waqar, who had always respected Lamb's aggression on the field. "But all that has changed."

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Lean and hungry... Rousseau preparing on site for the London Marathon with a trot around St Katherine's Dock

PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

Hot-time chaser loves cool London

Duncan Mackay finds the marathon-man Vincent Rousseau checking temperatures

OVER lunch yesterday, Vincent Rousseau of Belgium indulged in the Englishman's favourite topic of conversation: the weather. "This was not simply polite chitchat but the beginning of his meticulous preparation for this year's Flora London Marathon."

He was seeking information about the conditions; juggling Celsius and Fahrenheit, desperately hoping that an increase in temperature would not decrease his chances of winning on April 21. "I chose this race because I know the weather will be kind to me," he said with a little laugh, nervously not tempting fate.

in his contract with the London Marathon; he will run regardless of the temperature. He is confident that, given a cool day, he can roll back the stern Mexican challenge of Dionicio Ceron, the winner in 1994 and 1995, and German Silva, together with the British trio of Paul Evans, Eamonn Martin and Gary Staines, who between them will ensure that the 16th running of the race is the most competitive yet.

He now lives alone in Marny-Saint-Geran, a Belgian village of 200 people, and trains at altitude at a French Olympic training centre in the Pyrenees. He spends his time running, tending his garden and taking long, unaccompanied hikes through the mountains where he is at ease with his nature photography and his solitude. He also avoids chocolate because, even though he runs 120 miles a week and has a whip-like frame, he believes he is overweight. "I can't dance, I can't sing, I've got no rhythm, but I can run," he says.

Now comes the heat of expectation in London for the world's most consistent and eccentric marathon runner. Eamonn Martin has reacted to the timetable change for the Olympic marathon to a 7am start in Atlanta by confirming he will now press for a Games place. The 37-year-old Basildon runner was doubtful about competing when the event was originally scheduled for the heat and humidity of the early evening.

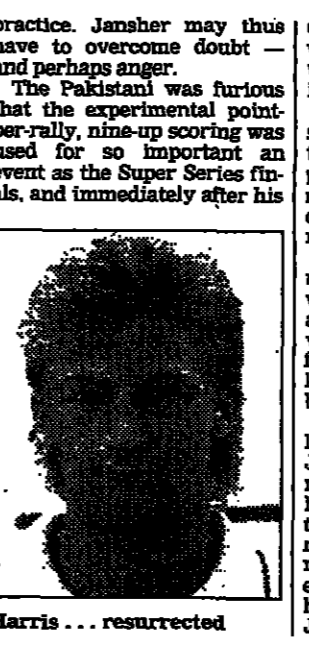
Squash

Del boy matures for the Open

Richard Jago on the one-time wimp in with a chance of beating Jansher again

D EL HARRIS, billed widely as a teenager as the former Jonah Barrington, caved in under the pressure and threatened to throw away his talent in an excess of drinking and partying.

Well, Harris just might, having done so 11 days ago. Once denounced as a wimp by some Australians for ballooning to two stone overweight and falling so far in the ratings that he needed to qualify for tournaments, Harris amazingly inflicted upon Jansher his first PSA circuit defeat for two years.



Harris... resurrected

practice. Jansher may thus have to overcome doubt - and perhaps anger. The Pakistani was furious that the experimental point-perally nine-up scoring was used for so important an event as the Super Series finals, and immediately after his

Big-noise Hill turns Power off

ANTHONY HILL, the Australian who has been banned from playing for his country again until 2001, survived a long, argumentative campaign to return from a four-month suspension at the Leekes British Open in Cardiff, writes Richard Jago.

Golf

Montgomerie second best but fighting fit

David Davies, in Ponte Vedra, Florida, on mixed fortunes in the Players Tournament

AS SOON as Colin Montgomerie heard the roar, he knew almost, but not exactly, what had happened. He was walking to the 15th tee of the Tournament Players Club in the final round of the Players Championship and, although he was over 500 yards away from the source, the sheer volume of the noise told him that Freddie Couples had eagled the 16th.

Then he had seen it, quite remarkably, bounce hard left over a hummock and roll forward on to the fringe of the green. Instead of having to take a penalty drop he had a 35-foot eagle putt, which he holed.

in the 1992 US Masters. On that occasion Couples had hit a poor tee shot at the short 12th and it had seemed certain to finish in Rae's Creek in front of the green. It had pitched on the bank, had started to roll towards the water and then, against all the laws of gravity, stopped.

Couples, who after his eagle went on to hole a soft downhill birdie putt at the short 17th, finished with an 18-under-par total of 270 after a final round of 64. He was four ahead of Montgomerie and Tommy Toiles, who both earned 235,353.

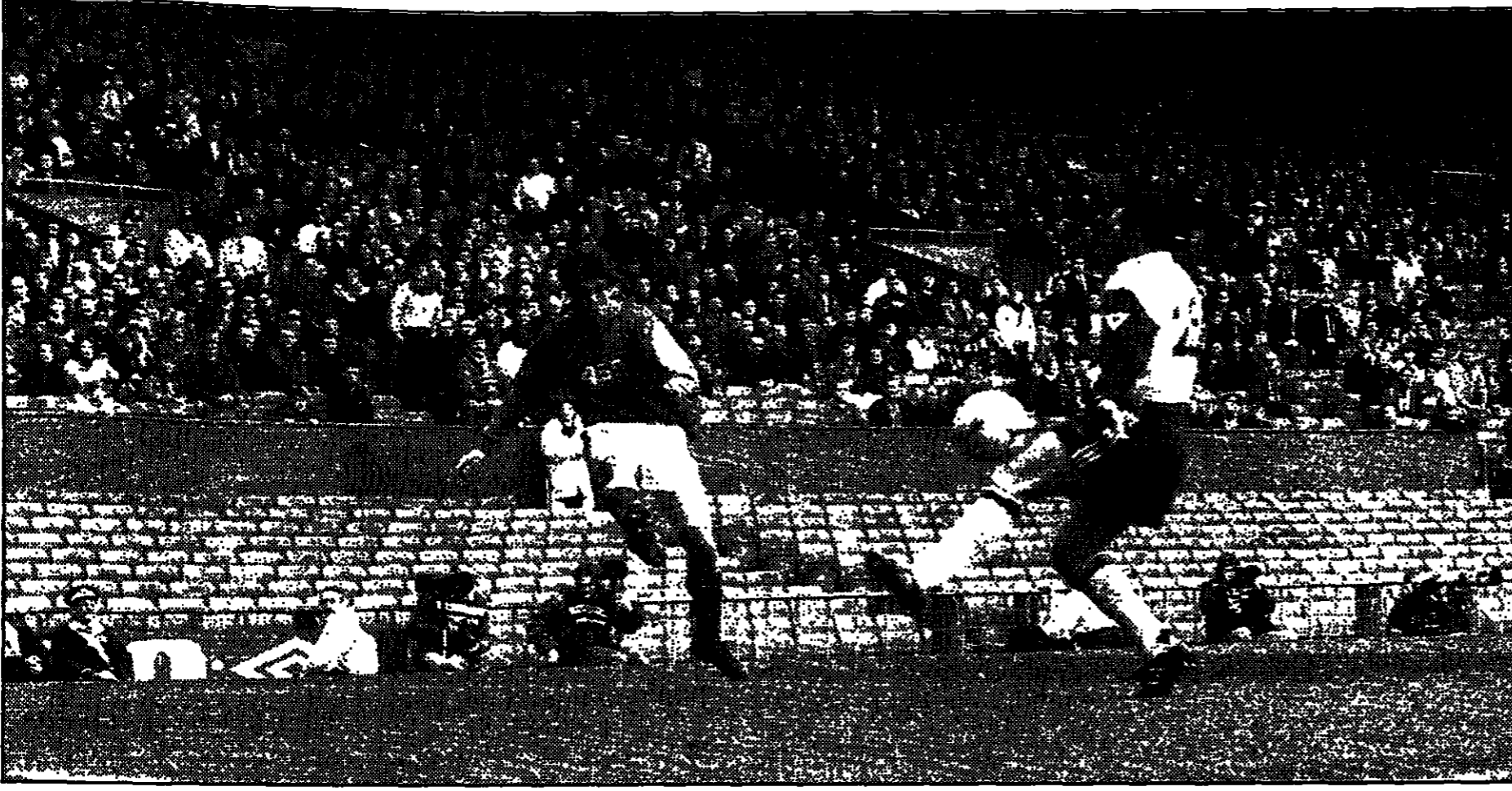
and my ball got wet, unfortunately." But he has now played in two tournaments this season, both with strong fields, and finished first in Dubai and now second. The super slimline Montgomerie, 33th already gone and more going weekly, was asked if his results justified his fitness regime and he said they did. "I have always wanted to play this game a little bit fitter than I was before and it's proving its worth already."

Renault warms to Damon Hill, page 13
The Marathon's hottest tip, page 15

FA jumps on Cup ticket profiteers, page 14
Bath and Richmond look to Wales, page 15

Sports Guardian

LIVERPOOL AND VILLA BLAME £38 TICKETS FOR MASSIVE SEMI-FINAL SNUB



And then there were none... row upon row of empty seats at Old Trafford on Sunday bear silent witness to a pricing policy that backfired in a big way. PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

Case of the missing thousands

Martin Thorpe on a lukewarm response by the FA to the outcry over Cup tickets

THE Football Association has ordered a partial review of ticket pricing after 10,400 fans snubbed the Old Trafford FA Cup semi-final in protest at the cost of admission. However, the FA is refusing to lower the top semi-final ticket price of £38 which was criticised by both competing teams. Liverpool calling it "excessive" and Aston Villa "far too much". "We see nothing wrong with the prices," said the FA's spokesman Steve Double. "But we may, however, have to review the structure of the banding at certain venues."

final tickets were placed in the highest price bands of £30 and £38. At the less well appointed Villa Park, venue of the other semi-final, it was 67 per cent, leaving a higher percentage of tickets available at £22 and £14. The unequal distribution was reflected in the ticket take-ups. Liverpool, allocated 23,500, returned 6,000 tickets unsold, most of them £38 — the first time the Anfield club have failed to sell out an FA Cup semi-final, other than a replay. Of Villa's 23,004, 4,400 went unsold, almost all at £38. But Chelsea sold all their allocation of 18,500, and of Manchester United's 19,000 only 700 went unsold, all at £38, the first time United have not sold out a semi-final other than a replay. Liverpool's chief executive Peter Robinson had already planned to write to the FA to complain. "We are saying we

consider the prices excessive. Lots of fans have shown their feelings by not buying tickets. A price of £38 is more than double the average price for a league game at Liverpool. People do expect to pay more at a semi-final, but not that much." Villa's secretary Steve Stride agreed. "The top price is far too much," he said. "There should be more tickets at the lower end." By comparison, tickets for the two Scottish Cup semi-finals, both at Hampden Park and one involving Rangers and Celtic, are priced at only £13 and £14. The FA's answer of a partial review of prices has not satisfied the Football Supporters' Association. "It is not addressing the problem," said its chairman Tim Crabb. "The fact is, £38 is clearly too much. Not many people can afford it and just because there are some wealthy supporters who can does not make it fair." "Fans know they are being held to ransom and many will still pay, but people can't keep

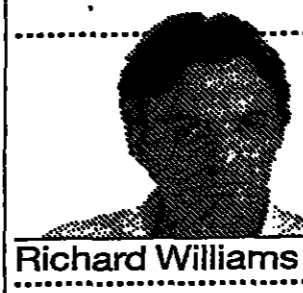
forking out. Sunday showed that point has been reached." In January the FSA presented a document, entitled *The Price Ain't Right*, to the FA, Premier League and Football League and it will be discussed by all four at a meeting at the end of this month. It accuses the authorities of double standards, in implementing the Taylor report by building all-seat stadiums but ignoring another finding that "it should be possible to plan a price structure which suits the cheapest seats to those presently paying to stand". Admission prices are also a subject of controversy at England games. Last Wednesday's friendly with Bulgaria attracted a crowd of 29,708. Many people have asked why, when the FA knew the game was not very attractive, it did not adopt a marketing strategy to increase the attendance — and thereby the atmosphere — by reducing prices and letting children in free or at cut-price. There are two more England friendlies at Wembley come before the European Championship, but Double said: "There are no immediate plans to change things at the moment. We would hope the crowds pick up for the World Cup qualifying games after Euro '96."

One club at the forefront of innovative pricing and incentives to attract fans is Charlton, whose average gate has risen to more than 10,000 since they began their strategy last season. Their secretary Chris Parkes cannot understand the FA's attitude. "They should have looked at that game and thought it's not Brazil or Scotland, so we will dramatically reduce the prices and encourage the children to come. Then a parent has to come." Each club in this season's FA Cup final will receive 25,500 tickets, the same split as last year.

Is the price right?

- West End musical**
Ticket to see *Cats*, *Oliver* - £10-£30. No concessions for children.
- Rock concert**
Lenny Kravitz at Wembley - £16; Donna Summer at Albert Hall £17.50-£25.
- Symphony concert**
(Birmingham Symphony Hall)
Simon Rattle and the BBC: £9.50-£30. No concessions.
- Affton Towers**
Day ticket £17.50 (children 4-13 £13.50).
- Foot match at Luton**
£15-£27 per day. (Juniors £8 with an adult in a £15 seat).
- Cinema**
Odeon Leicester Sq: £7.50-£9. (Children £4-5).
Odeon, Manchester: £4 (Children £2.70).
- League match at Liverpool**
£9.50 (Children £6). Standing £7.50 (Children £4). Family enclosure adult plus two children £10.50.

One delights but the other desires



Richard Williams

TO ONE, it meant the chance of adding a final adornment to a career over-stuffed with honours. To the other, nothing less than his identity was at stake. And on that distinction depended the result of one of the best FA Cup semi-finals anybody can remember. Is it too simple to say that Manchester United beat Chelsea because Eric Cantona wanted the victory more than Ruud Gullit did? I don't think so. Which is no criticism of the loser, because the difference between them was not one of talent or commitment. It was a question of significance. Gullit is a very welcome visitor to English football, but he is now playing on the pitches where Cantona rediscovered his talent and his appetite for the game, where his fulfilment began. And where he endured, without self-pity, a singularly horrible ordeal.

that context his friend Gerard Houllier, now the technical director of the French football federation, spoke of a captain who "went from room to room, playing cards, listening to music... he wasn't just hidden away in his corner. And he was very helpful with the younger players. The image is of an individualist, but he's totally the opposite of that, believe me. He's very concerned with collective play and collective work. He's not a selfish player." "Selfish? Proud? To a fault. And let us not forget that Cantona has won nothing since the double of 1993-94. His return from that eight-month suspension will not be complete until there is something new in the trophy cabinet to prove that he is every bit the player he was before, and maybe something more besides. The destiny of this year's championship is out of his hands; no matter how many matches his goals decide in United's favour, the title is Newcastle's to win or lose. But the FA Cup is there for whoever brings to it the greatest desire, and that is what we saw on Sunday. Early in the game, he made several uncharacteristic mistakes. Short passes were misplaced, longer ones mistimed. And that, paradoxically, was the evidence of his keenness: there at last were the signs of the nerves to which the stern face never admits. HIS limbs do not flow like Gullit's. He does not care the ball with such gentleness that it seems to be made of fluff. His stiff, straight-backed carriage and his dancer's played feet are good subjects for caricature, but too individual for straightforward emulation. Yet his instincts carry him on to the post in the first half was a moment of magnificent virtuosity, balanced in the second period by a very different contribution: when did we last see such an example of commitment as his header off the line to save Peter Schmeichel from the consequences of John Spencer's furious drive? Come to that, who else would be shrewd and generous enough to realise that if poor Andy Cole were ever going to score again, he would need to be put in possession no more than a yard from the goal line, and even then presented with a ball already on its way into the net? Ruud Gullit added to our fond memories of his illustrious moments on Sunday. He can stay as long as he likes. But for Eric Cantona, England has another meaning. This is where he lives.

Southgate blow for Venables

TWO defenders England hope will figure in this Sunday's European Championship face a fight to convince the coach Terry Venables of their fitness. Aston Villa's Gareth Southgate may miss the rest of the season with damaged knee ligaments, and Gary Pallister of Manchester United may not be fit before the FA Cup final on May 11, a month before England's opening game against Switzerland. The versatile, 25-year-old Southgate hopes to be fit for Euro '96. After being injured in the FA Cup semi-final against Liverpool on Sunday he said: "There are only five weeks left of the season and it is not looking very optimistic in terms of playing again. That would be a major blow with Euro '96 coming up." Pallister has missed United's last six games with a back problem and Venables

"hasn't a clue" if the 30-year-old will figure in his plans. United's manager Alex Ferguson says he will do everything in his power to get Pallister to Wembley "for club and country".



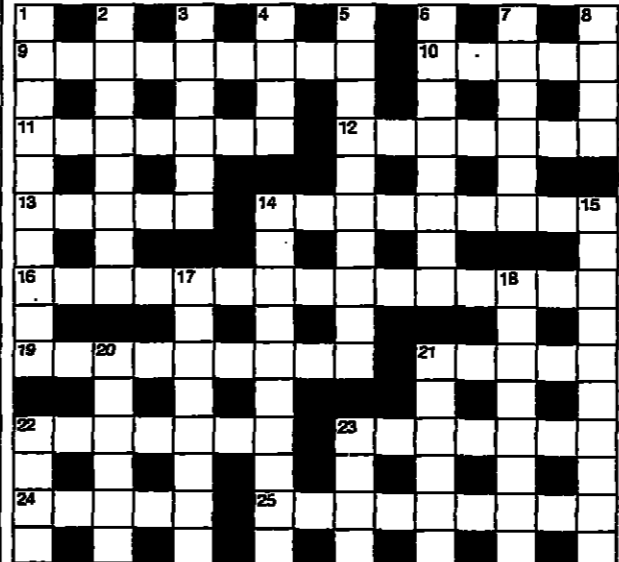
Southgate... still hoping

French multi-media artist Orlan will begin the final stage of her ten Year Project, The Reincarnation Of Saint Orlan. Surgeons will construct the largest nose her face is capable of holding.

Louise Gray G2 page 8

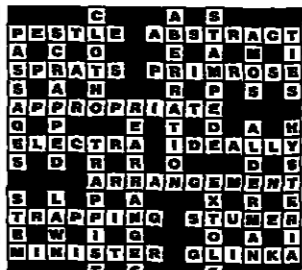
Guardian Crossword No 20,616

Set by Paul



- Across
- 9 Language of Spain near to becoming incomprehensible (9)
 - 10 21st C Castle wrote, perhaps, for convenience? (5,6)
 - 11 It sounds rough in Greater London? (7)
 - 12 Fish finger without hesitation passed round — it's sensational! (7)
 - 13 Military framework in America, dreadful (5)
 - 14 The magnitude of generosity around the north-west (9)
 - 16 Host: "With Ceres and Saturn (poles apart), I composed 'The Planets'" (10,5)
 - 19 Model paid zero for stripping, (regular shape) (9)
 - 21 Its urban, either way (5)
 - 22 Whacking my French master, (being unqualified) (7)
 - 23 Awakening, the start of drinking session having been forgotten (7)
 - 24 I haven't a clue for 'horse' — nay! (5)
 - 25 The heart of Japan without staple diet? How wonderfully absurd! (9)
- Down
- 1 Former Yugoslavian corroborates alternative, without an alternative (5-5)
 - 2 Scattered barley, potatoes, etc., rotated around year one (9)
 - 3 Oxford and Cambridge, it's said, progress smoothly (8)
 - 4 Catchpole in drag (4)
 - 5,6 Dogs and birds as speakers (7,3,8)
 - 7 Priest wears a mark of authority (8)
 - 8 Unpleasant discovery in beef rogan josh? (4)

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- CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,616
- 14 Stone print made of hard opal — right? (10)
 - 15 Graf losing initially in strategic game, and stunned (10)
 - 17 One's charged with having to choose Reagan (8)
 - 18 I made my bed around five and got dressed (8)
 - 20 Feeling sleepy? Head off for the shade (6)
 - 21 see 10ac
 - 22 Manufactured in 11 East (4)
 - 23 Desirous of Michelangelo's work, though not at first (4)
- Solution tomorrow

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